



SPRINGBOK 85

The Springbok

**THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL
OF**

The Royal Canadian Dragoons



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LIEUTENANT-COLONEL D.J. GRAHAM, C.D.**

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MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

1985 was a year marked by celebration, remembrance, renewal and rededication. Celebration of the great honour which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of Canada bestowed upon the Regiment by appointing His Royal Highness Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales as Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Canadian Dragoons on 17 August 1985. Celebration of the 40th anniversary of Leeuwarden and Dokkum in Friesland and the end of World War II in Italy, while remembering our comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice to gain the peace and the dedicated service of all who have served to maintain «Peace in Freedom» since 1945. The strong spirit of renewal and professional dedication which is ever present in the Regiment as each annual cycle is initiated was greatly enhanced by the decision of the Government of Canada to increase the combat strength and to add more in 1986. The knowledge that the full fighting equipment of the Regiment can be manned and operated adds greater realism to the performance of all members. As we enter the 103rd year of service to Her Majesty and to Canada let us rededicate our efforts to achieving ever higher standards for the future while preserving the custom and tradition of our Regiment's distinguished past.

G.G. Bell, MBE, CD
Brigadier General (Retired)
Colonel of the Regiment
The Royal Canadian Dragoons



COMMANDING OFFICER'S MESSAGE

1985 has been quite a year for the Regiment! The increased manning to 4 CMBG has brought our numbers to 600 and has enabled us to operate three tank squadrons, a complete reconnaissance squadron and a good-sized headquarters squadron. It required a Corps effort to make this happen and the Canadian-based Regiments unselfishly sent us some of their best soldiers to bring us up to strength. Our Recce Squadron arrived virtually intact from the 8th Canadian Hussars (Princess Louise's) in Petawawa and, without fuss and in a highly professional and competent manner, blended superbly into the Regiment.

In August we were advised that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had appointed His Royal Highness, Charles, Prince of Wales to be the Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Canadian Dragoons. This historic event marks the second time we have had a Colonel-in-Chief — the last was His Majesty King George V during the period 4 April 1921 to 20 January 1936. The honour given to us by the Royal Family should be cause for great pride in every member of the Regiment. We are now in the process of having uniforms made for Prince Charles and we will attempt to have him visit his Regiment for Leliefontein celebrations in the near future.

Also of historical interest is our recent project to replace our ceremonial uniforms. We have now ordered the material and helmets to do 10 complete sets during 1986 and we will continue at the rate of 10 per year until we have 40 complete uniforms for a Quarter Guard, Guidon Party and Markers. This important, but expensive, project is receiving excellent financial support from the Regimental Guild, from the RCD Ladies Club, from Squadron fund-raising events and from generous individual donations. I am grateful for this support and I am certain that this worthwhile endeavour will be successful.

The Regiment is operationally fit. In garrison and certainly in the field we continue to do everything demanded of us in a very professional manner. Our equipment is in excellent condition, as proven once again during this year's Annual Technical Inspection, and we know how to use it. When we were operationally tested this year, a Dutch colonel from AFCENT HQ stated, «In four years of heading this test team I have seen a lot of armoured units and this is the best one yet.» Every member of the Regiment can share my pride at moments such as that.

This will be my last Springbok message as your Commanding Officer. I thank you all for making these two years the most satisfying and rewarding of my career. Whatever else I may do in the future, nothing can compare.

D.J. Graham
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer



RSM'S MESSAGE

All too soon year one of my tour of duty as the Regimental Sergeant Major has passed. 1985 has seen many changes to the Regiment with the manning of the third tank squadron and the arrival of a formed recce squadron from the 8CH, many of whom were old faces and friends and the rest new soldiers who worked well together to form another excellent Dragoon squadron. The training cycle ensured that all were kept busy. The 86th Leliefontein celebrations went off as expected: «First Class!» Many old friends joined us from near and far and it was heartwarming to see the smiles proudly beaming from our retired comrades when march pasts were played and armoured vehicles rolled by.

The rotation period will have passed again by the time this reaches the press but, I would like to single out the RCD Ladies Club as well as others who make the transition from Canadian to European living as smoothly as possible by contributing their time and efforts toward a very important task.

As we prepare for the 1986-87 training cycle I would like to welcome all new Dragoons and supporting Dragoons to the fold. I know that the new personnel will perform in a manner to help us maintain the high standard passed on to us by our predecessors. Good luck to all and «Good Shooting».

G.E. Martin, CD
 Chief Warrant Officer
 Regimental Sergeant Major
 The Royal Canadian Dragoons

THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS ASSOCIATION

During 1985 the Association maintained a strong communication among members and chapters. The year culminated in a well-planned, informative and enjoyable weekend in Ottawa during 25-27 October.

Regrettably, as inevitably it must, our membership roll was diminished through the loss of 11 of our comrades. We have been heartened, on the other hand, by the number of serving ERE comrades-in-arms who have indicated their interest in our group and activities. We are thankful for this support.

The Board of Directors of the Association met twice during the year. The first meeting was held in Kingston on 15 June and the second in Ottawa on 25 October. A number of items to do with the mandate of the Association, the Newsletter, Annual Meeting, Financial Statements, Membership and Chapter Boundaries were dealt with or deferred for a decision by the General Meeting.

The term of office of the Directors will be completed this year and we reluctantly see them go. Pat Grieve, Bob Mephram, Don Morgan and Norm Wood have been pillars of the Board and their wise counsel and guidance will be missed.

Two of the three World War I members of the Association attended the Annual Meeting in Ottawa and, by their presence, added to the success of this yearly get-together. Bill White, a youthful 91 from London, was in the company of his daughter, Helen Richards; and Bill Redmond from Montréal, the younger of these two gentlemen by two years, was a member of the Montréal delegation. We hope to see both at future meetings of the Association.

Ed Johnson, one of our members, represented the Regiment at the 40th Anniversary visit to Italy and Sicily in May. Ed presented the Association with an album of photos taken during his visit. He, along with BGen George Bell, spoke at the General Meeting about their individual experiences during these trips to Europe.

The Association's annual meeting was held in Ottawa at the Delta Ottawa Hotel on 25-27 October 1985. The Eastern Ontario Chapter (Ottawa) was host for the weekend and is congratulated for a job well done.

On Friday evening a reception was held at the MacDonald Club. One hundred and two members attended and enjoyed a fine evening and buffet. The annual general meeting was held Saturday afternoon at the Delta with 81 members in attendance. In the evening there was a dinner dance held for 195 members and their guests. The dinner was excellent and dancing followed to the music of the Mo Davies Orchestra (Mo was a member of the RCD Band). All in all the weekend was a great success. For any interested in planning to attend the reunion in 1986, it will be held in the Toronto area. Further details will be announced in the June issue of the Association Newsletter.

The Association was informed in October about the honour granted to the Regiment in the appointment of HRH Prince Charles as our Colonel-in-Chief. Our unanimous comment, «Well done!».

The Association looks forward to continued support to the Regiment in whatever ways and means are found to do so.

Elsewhere, the President of the Association, Ed Nokes will have included his message of best wishes and good fortune on behalf of the Association. So say we all.



President Ed Nokes and his wife are probably discussing some of the events of the 40th anniversary visit to Italy with Ed Johnson and his wife.



YEAR IN REVIEW '85

JANUARY

- * Brigade Ski Schools
- 21 Staff Inspection
- 21-19 Annual Technical Inspection
- 28-31 Instructor Indoctrination for FMC
Wheeled & Light Track Course

31 Comd Inspection

FEBRUARY

- * Brigade Ski Schools
- * Tracked Recce Vehicle Driving Course
- 18-22 Officers Study Week

MARCH

- * Tracked Recce Vehicle
Driving Course
- 6-18 Heuberg Small Arms
Training

APRIL

- * Refresher Training
- * Adventure Training
- 14-17 Officers Study Leeuwarden
- 15 Leeuwarden Day



MAY

- * Mines & DML Course
- 6-12 CLC (Franco)
- * Gun Camp Bergen Hohne

JUNE

- * Bergen Hohne Gun Camp
- 10-14 C.A.T.



JULY

16-19 Nijmegen
* Munsingen

AUGUST

* Munsingen
* Hohenfels Ex RAPID THRUST



SEPTEMBER

* Hohenfels
* Brigade FTX

OCTOBER

9-10 Brigade Sports Meet
* Leo Gun Course
* CLC

NOVEMBER

* Leo Gun Course
* CLC
* Tank Driving Course
2-3 RCD Volksmarsch
4-8 Leliefontein Week
17-23 Mini Gun Camp

DECEMBER

21 Regimental 102nd Birthday





REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS

Most of us were new to RHQ as of July 85. One of the first items on the agenda was a briefing by MCpl Gallagher, one of the veterans, on what our purpose in life would be for the next year. We learned how many vehicles RHQ has (too many) and how many of us there were to take care of them (too few). We also learned one of our most important tasks, and probably the most hated – setting up a Command Post (CP).

Munsingen was where we really learned what RHQ is all about; doing two CP exercises, one in the training area and one outside. It was during the first CP exercise that we unleashed our secret defensive weapon against a HQ Transport Patrol – the dreaded Rabid Fox (sorry that's classified). The Munsingen period ended with the Regimental exercise in which the two RHQ tanks, along with RHQ Recce Troop and elements of 2 PPCLI, played enemy force.

We were not very active in Hohenfels except for the CP radio operators and duty officers who were on the air throughout. MCpl Lehman and Cpl Gendron, the crew of 91B (radio re-broadcast), spent quite a bit of time out on their own when the squadrons got out of touch while the tank crews got lots of practice doing Dog and Ponies. The high point of the Brigade Exercise which followed was the unusually good weather.

All through this period we managed to maintain a fairly respectable football team although our training camp was being constantly interrupted by inclement weather and exercises. Will someone please sort out the priorities?

The post-exercise period was spent in the usual way: vehicle maintenance, cleaning kit, Snowballs, re-cleaning kit, Snowballs, etc. One of the advantages of being in RHQ emerged in the preparation for the Leliefontein parade when we found out we were not on the foot parade (other than the CO, DCO, Adjutant and RSM, of course) and only a few of us were on the roll-past. To the rest of the Regiment, if it means anything coming from us guys, you looked good!

At the time of writing this article we are doing vehicle heater maintenance to prepare for a CP exercise 8-13 December. Then comes the GOC's inspection and we are into a New Year.



LCol Graham on exercise.

60-RHQ RECCE TROOP

The beginning of the new year 1985 found 60 tasked with the evaluation of the new blank firing attachments for the .50 cal machine gun. To everyone's surprise the BFAs worked like a charm. Except for a few minor design changes they were given a high rating by the test members of the Troop.

The end of January saw the return of the dreaded ATI period and the commander's inspection. The pace was hectic as usual but in the end the Troop was given an excellent rating for the ATI and even answered all the commander's questions correctly during his inspection.

After this period, it was a chance for the Troop to take a well-deserved period of leave and, for those unfortunate enough to stay back, it was a time to refresh on all the basic training such as NBCW, first aid, small arms handling . . .

To add a bit of spice to life in March, WO Beaton, MCpl Speck and MCpl Slack departed for four days on a border patrol tour with elements of the 3/7 (US) Cav. Here they became actively involved in the actual patrolling of the German/Czech border. They were issued with M-16 rifles, ammunition and anything else necessary to give them the awe-inspiring «Rambo» look. It was an interesting few days for the three and an experience that will not be forgotten.

In May 60 did not get the chance to attend gun camp and do any live-fire training. However, it was we who helped support the CAT Competition by supplying personnel for every job imaginable. Needless to say, a few of the boys wished they could have had their fingers on the triggers rather than flopping bratties in the canteen tent!

June started with a slightly different twist for RHQ Recce Troop. Due to the fact that Recce Squadron had been temporarily disbanded, awaiting the arrival of personnel from Petawawa, RHQ Recce Troop was, for the majority of Munsingen, left to train on their own with no interruptions. This allowed the Troop valuable time in the RMA to brush up on drills and procedures and as well to enjoy the scenery outside the training area itself. Even though the training was hard and the hours long, we did manage to find time to squeeze in the odd game of «Chase the Ace» with the local German population.

Upon return to Lahr we greeted our new Recce compatriots who had recently arrived from Canada. After a brief stay in Lahr to get ourselves organized again, and to assist the new squadron in adjusting to conditions in Germany, it was time to head out for the main event of the year -- Fallex.

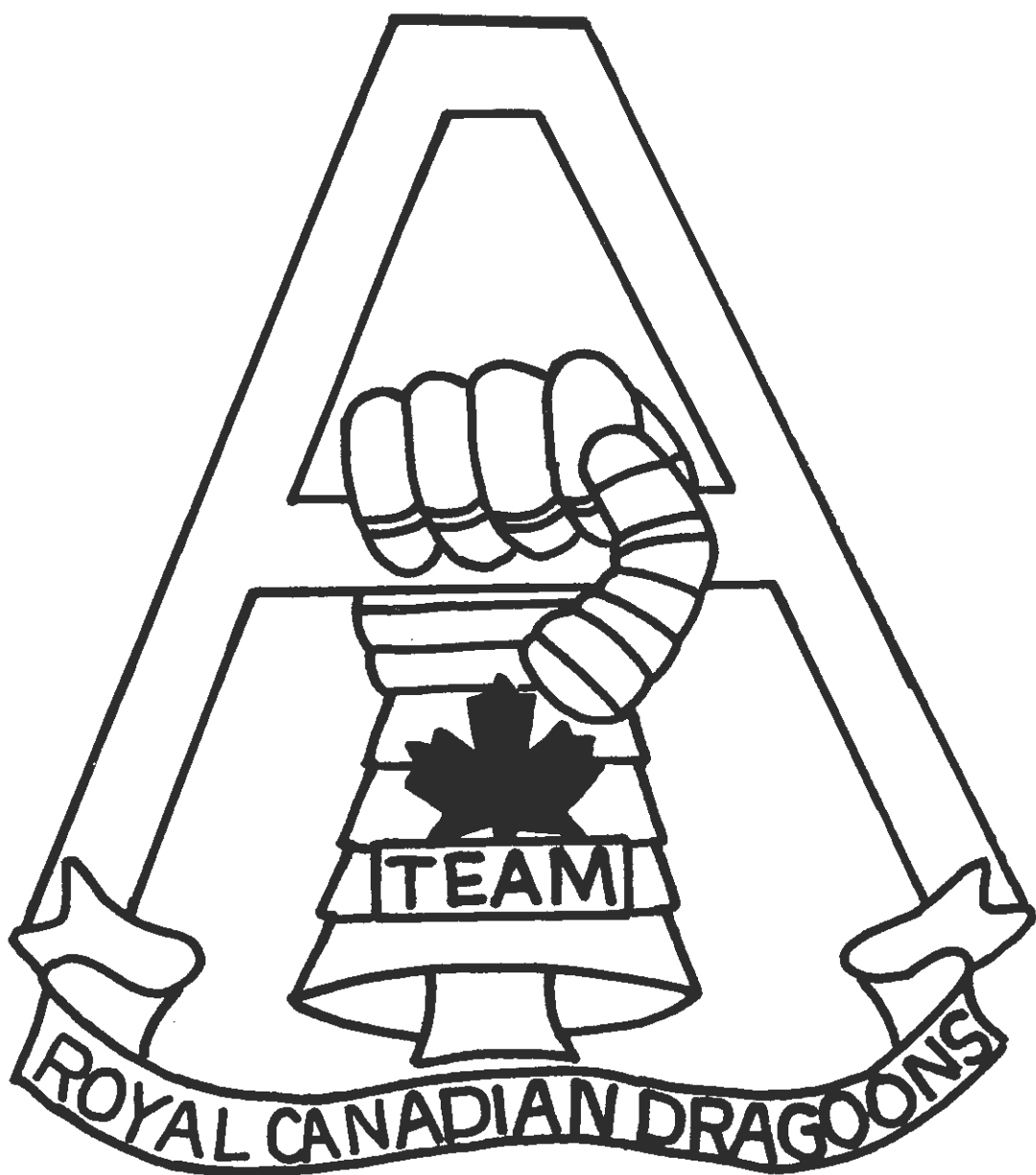
The first week was one of the most arduous training periods ever encountered by 60. Bivouac-ing at Hirschau, with its sand mountain, swimming pool, disco and an endless flow of beer, was very trying for both the younger and older soldiers in the Troop. However, training was completed within the week and 60 was given orders to deploy to the Hohenfels training area to act as enemy force against Dangerous Jack's combat teams.

Using the MILES laser training system was a new experience for 60. This system quickly taught crew commanders the importance of adopting proper fire positions. Of course we're not talking about 60's, but the crew commanders of the various combat teams. After the Troop ate through thousands of rounds of .50 cal blank ammunition and countless boxes of smoke and pyrotechnics, we proved ourselves to be quite the force to try to defeat (the enemy never gets killed).

From Hohenfels we deployed with the Regiment for the Brigade FTX. Here we showed everyone how true Recce works, as it seems we stayed out of everyone's sight and mind. Needless to say this portion of Fallex was not the most demanding phase for RHQ Recce Troop.

After Fallex, 60 came under control of HQ Squadron. Leliefontein, ATI, courses and GOCs have taken their toll on our manpower resources, but somehow we still manage to get the work done.

Now we are eagerly anticipating Reforger 86 in January to be able to prove ourselves once again. The Troop has already begun installing new heaters that actually work and have already bought out the first supply of thermal underwear -- just in case.



A SQUADRON

A Squadron has had an interesting year. To begin with, the Squadron did the Regiment proud in the Annual Technical Inspection (ATI). In February, a number of the troops attended the Brigade Ski School. Ski School was designed to be a crash course in skiing. Unfortunately for some, it was more a ski school of crashing. According to reports from various sources, ski school was a scream – a scream of terror for some, and being screamed at for others. In any event, the Squadron hit the slopes with force; and hitting with force is after all one of the consequences of learning to ski.

For 2 and 4 Troops, Ex Snakebite soon followed. Snakebite could have been called «Frostbite» due to the weather, but more appropriately, «Snakepit» after some of the astonishing performances by certain people in Rothenburg. The exercise finished with everyone in good spirits.

Gun Camp was the next major Squadron event. The Squadron survived despite a heavy training schedule (the ranges closed after lunch), long hours (on the beach) and perilous field exercises (in Hamburg). How we survived the Dutch NCOs' mess or the nights of «slam dancing» in Bergen is another question; for more info see 4 Troop. We gave the Regimental competition a good shot, and although it was a good shot, we missed the target by a hair. By the time CAT rolled around, everyone was low on cash, especially Sgt Locke's card-playing partners; so some couldn't afford to stay the extra week in Hohne anyway! 1 Troop won the Squadron gunnery competition as well as the Booby Trap competition. (It's a good thing that there wasn't a category for good looks or their winning streak would have been shattered.)

Munsingen field training in July was relatively quiet. C/S 16 invented the «antennae down» tank position. However, due to the difficulty in driving into deep shell holes or house basements, this manoeuvre will be kept out of the training manuals. Munsingen also bore witness to the 1985 edition of the Chicken Olympics, which included such memorable events as the Watermelon-Eating-Head-Bashing Contest, as well as the world-renowned Chicken Race. To make a long story short, Adm Troop won and the chickens lost.

After ironing out the kinks, the Squadron departed for Hohenfels and Fallex. Here once again, SHQ (C/S 1B) invented a new position – turret upside down. This manoeuvre is definitely not recommended with the crew still inside but it is an excellent way to wash out the turret interiors. (The BC insists it was his best turret-down position!)

During the Combat Team training which followed, the Squadron was heavily involved with providing the infantry armour support and most important participating in four concurrent brigade run 36-hour full combat team exercises. At the end of the sixth non-stop day, the Squadron returned to a «normal» pace of training and tried to catch up on all that lost sleep. It was fun, exciting, a real learning experience and a bag-drive. Love to do it again, General Jack! As for the weather, let us just say that it is a good thing that tanks don't dissolve in the rain. We had our first introduction to MILES and found that it makes playing Cowboys and Indians considerably more realistic and enjoyable. So let's keep those basic tank drills in mind (and let's get our own MILES equipment or the equivalent).

After a brief stint on the 1 R22eR Battle Group Exercise, A Squadron participated in the Brigade FTX. Everyone benefited greatly from working with our German partnership unit, 293 Panzer Battalion who played as enemy force for the Brigade. As the year drew to a close, the Squadron was tested by a NATO Operational Readiness Testing and Evaluation (ORTEP) team during a three-day mini-exercise which was initiated through an alert recall. The results only confirmed our beliefs – A Squadron should survive to fight another day.

The year came to a close with the Leliefontein celebrations and a visit from the Colonel of the Regiment, General Bell. Not to be outdone by the Chicken Olympics, the Leliefontein Sports Day bore witness to some interesting events: Bicycle Jousting, Tent Pegging and the Chuckwagon Race. The week finished off with a series of Mess Dinners and a Regimental Dance.

As winter and another ATI (ugh!) approached, the Squadron put its nose to the grindstone and came out with, once again, good results overall. As to what lies in store for 1986, I can only say to look for A Squadron where you will always find us – up front, at the sharp end.



This beats «Cowboys & Indians» any day!



OC A SQUADRON'S TANK (with crew) — Cpl Forsey, operator; Cpl Cameron, gunner, Cpl Rodden, driver; MCpl Webber, clerk; Cpl Train, cook; Cpl Cima, steward; Cpl Tucker, padre; Mrs. Sue Aymar, secretary.



Maj Barsauskas inspects the top of the Commander's beret.



«Hey you, wake up.»



Cpl Brabant at play.



Col and «friends».

Don't even ask.



They say if you blow in their ear, they're friendly.

MEN'S REST AREA

1985 was a good year! We saw our membership increase considerably this summer with «C» Squadron now living and working with us. The Regiment got rid of the six-foot folding tables and benches we were using and purchased some brand new furniture for us. This furniture has improved the appearance and the potential of our Mess greatly. Now, with the new furniture and a nice amount of money in the bank, it is hoped the Regiment will help the RCD Men's Mess committees in years to come to spend the money wisely in improving the Men's Mess even further; like the Fussball table that we bought. The Mess is used heavily in the morning for coffee break and lunch on workdays. If improved some more, it could be used and enjoyed more to host parties and other events during off duty hours.

In mid December we held a special annual event. It was the Christmas party for the Georg Wimmer School for retarded children from here in Lahr. With a band, a meal and a visit from Santa Claus in his Leopard tank who had presents, the students really enjoyed themselves. The whole afternoon proved to be a very enjoyable time. The five hours we spent together gave us all the Christmas feeling. Thank you again to all the people who supported this.

With more support from the general membership and with more activities planned in the future we hope the Mess can grow even further.

We thank the different people who served as PMC, VPMC and the members of various committees who volunteered their time all year.



The Rhine Valley fog was too thick; so Santa arrived by Leopard.



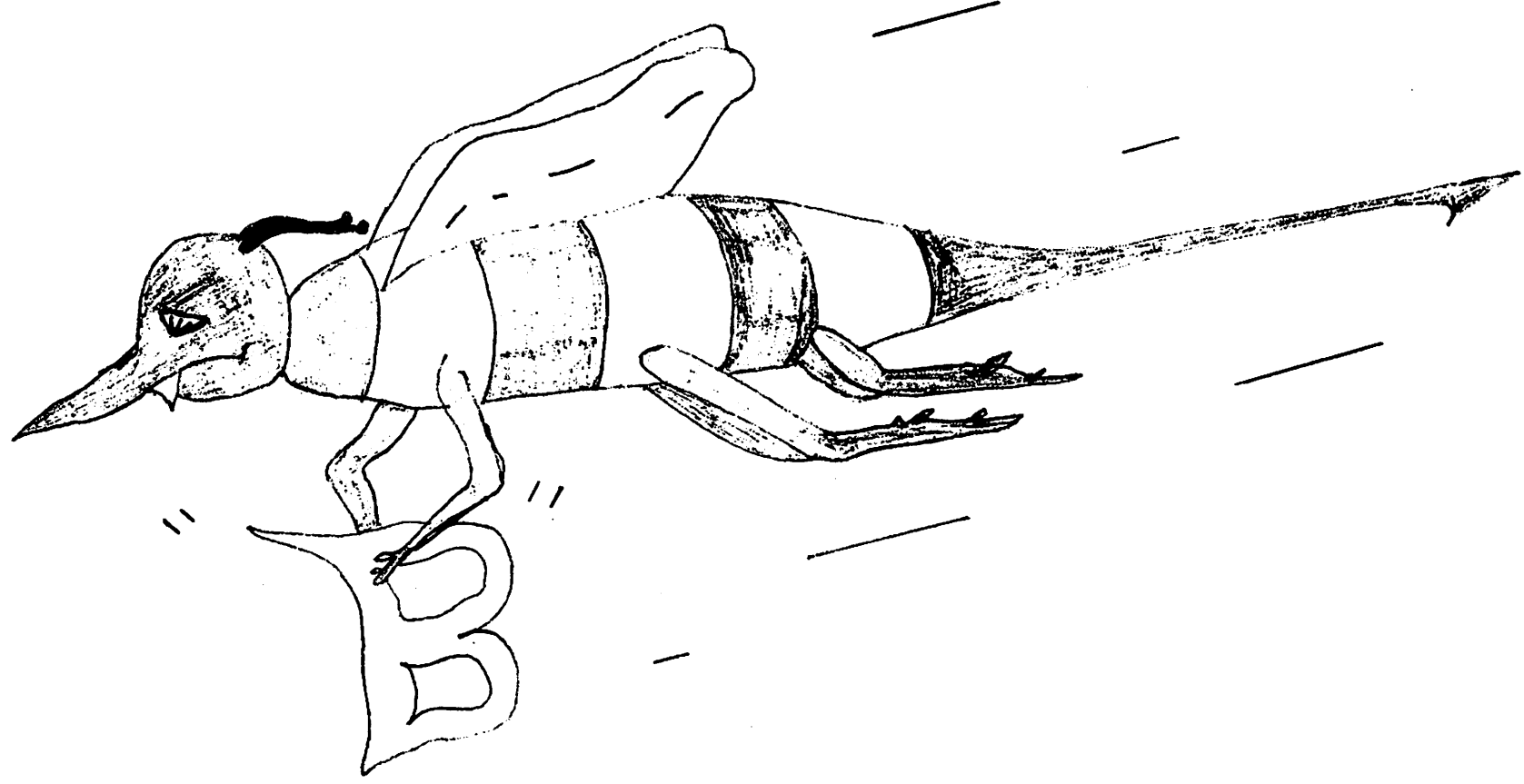
Santa's arrival is anxiously awaited.



German or Canadian, kids are the same.



The school puts on some skits for the Rest Area hosts.



B SQUADRON

The year 1985 started off with new arrivals from Canada. Capt Hazelton arrived from the Lord Strathcona's and joined 2 Troop while Lt Splane fresh from Phase IV training in Gagetown joined 3 Troop. The first task for the new year was completing the Annual Technical Inspection (ATI). Maj Appleton and Capt Glauninger, in cooperation with WO Bouchard and Maintenance Troop, devised a plan which allowed for maximum time to be devoted to maintenance and resulted in a very successful ATI with 2 Troop winning the Squadron ATI Trophy.

During February and March, B Squadron participated in the Brigade ski school in Feldberg and continued refresher training with emphasis on small arms, first aid and nuclear, biological and chemical warfare training.

The weapons training paid off when the Squadron completed small arms qualification training in Heuberg. Then it was the gunnery experts' turn to put everyone through the Indoor Miniature Range (IMR) in preparation for the annual Regimental gun camp. WO Sloan and Sgt Rousseau put all the gunners and operators through their paces on the IMR.

Everyone was excited as they loaded the tank train early in May. Many personnel hoped to get a visit to one of the many historical areas around Bergen-Hohne. The Squadron gunnery programme began with the basics and accelerated quickly to crew and troop battle runs to determine the top two troops to represent the Regiment in the CAT Competition. After the selection was made the Squadron carried on with more crew and troop battle runs and deep-fording training which provided much amusement with the arrival of the ARV whose crew demonstrated and tested a new life jacket and breathing apparatus. B Squadron won the Best Squadron Trophy in the Regimental Tank Gunnery competition. Callsigns 22 and 21 finished first and second. After the long ride home it was back to cleaning equipment.

June brought many changes within B Squadron as we said goodbye to those who returned to Canada and many who took over different jobs within the Regiment. Maj Forsyth took over from Maj Appleton, Capt Richards became the Battle Captain and Capt Fletcher filled the Administrative Officer position. Sgt Steward joined Maintenance Troop under WO Bouchard. WO Hannan joined 1 Troop, WO Roberts 2 Troop, WO (I've Been Everywhere) Murdoch 3 Troop, newly promoted WO Rousseau stayed with 4 Troop and Sgt Boutillier moved to Squadron HQ.

Just before deploying to Munsingen, 2 Troop was joined by Lt Cushman from the Lord Strathcona's. The weather cooperated while we were in Munsingen and a good deal of training in all phases was accomplished. The Squadron sports day was won by 2 Troop, but it was 3 Troop who best demonstrated how to drink beer.

The week between Munsingen and Hohenfels allowed time for much needed maintenance of the vehicles and allowed 2Lt Follwell a few days of panic required to settle in, find residence and move the Squadron to Hohenfels by train. The weather, as expected, did not cooperate. It was a relief to return at night to the bivouac area for a hot meal, shower and a movie during the many days of rain. Training with the infantry was accomplished by detaching the troops to the infantry companies and later employing half squadrons with the companies during the combat team traces.

During the Brigade field training exercise, B Squadron was employed in defensive operations in which heavy losses were inflicted upon the enemy. A collective sigh of relief was heard as we pulled into a leaguer to prepare for the trip home.

One week after our return from fall exercises, the Regimental and Brigade courses began. WO Roberts, MCpl Marchand and MCpl McNutt were tasked as instructors for the Leopard Driving and Maintenance Course; WO Hannan and WO Murdoch for the Leopard Gunnery Course; and Lt Kocher the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare course held in Lahr.

The Leliefontein celebrations were a big success with a fun-filled sports day to cap off a very busy week. During November the Squadron prepared for the Annual Technical Inspection (ATI).

1985 was a busy and very rewarding year. Once again it was proven that «B» stands for «BEST». The members of the Squadron look forward to the challenge of 1986 and the chance to prove again who's BEST.

BOOM!!

WHAMMM!!

GEE! ISN'T THIS
FIRE SIMULATION GREAT!!!
IT'S JUST LIKE THE REAL
THING! WHERE'S THE FOO
ANYWAY??

CRASH!!



EX REBEL SADDLE 85



The sign of success — Two Troop wins the Squadron ATI Trophy.



Maintenance or victory? Where is Sgt Hammel?

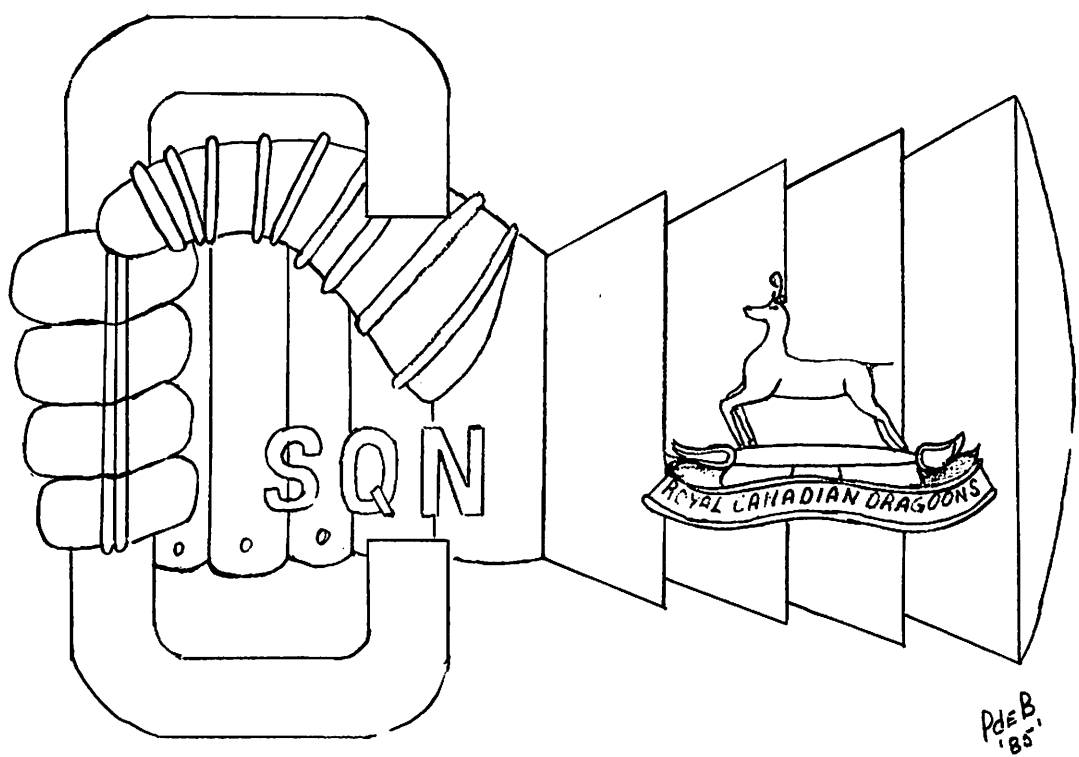
MASTER CORPORALS' MESS

It was a busy year for the Master Corporals' Mess. One of the big reasons that it was so busy was that there was a population explosion of the master corporal type. The population rose from 76 men to 105 by the end of the year.

At the beginning of the year we hosted the Snr NCOs to a sports night and fun was had by all. Then there was the rotation BBQ-Dance which turned out well. The new Mess Committee soon found out that not everything is as easy as it looks.

The annual Leliefontein Mess Dinner was a great success considering it was held on the economy and the food was cooked in the kitchen trucks.

Special thanks to everybody that was involved. The New Year will welcome a new committee. Good luck to all. The members of the Master Corporals' Mess are looking forward to fun-filled activities in the New Year.



PdE B.
'85

C SQUADRON (LAHR)

The «new» C Squadron was officially formed on 24 June 1985 as part of the government's increased commitment to NATO. In the short period since then the Squadron has performed very well and has developed into a close-knit sub-unit.

Prior to the official date much ground work was accomplished by a small group of personnel which included the OC, Maj Hillier, the SSM, MWO Martin, and the remnants of the previous Recce Squadron.

By the time the Squadron left for Munsingen in late July it was only up to 70 per cent effective strength. Despite this handicap, a lot of critical training was done in preparation for Fallex. As well as conducting training from crew to regimental level, the Squadron learned a few new ways to take down and transport tents. Extra «humanoids» were present in the form of Tooner's Tiny Troopers, four RCD cadets. They were employed in a variety of tasks and at one point even drew extra duty in the kitchen.

After returning to Lahr for a week and a half of maintenance and fresh arrivals, including two new troop leaders, the Squadron deployed to Hohenfels for a month. This time was spent carrying out combat team and battle group exercises as well as by watching videos on the SQ's new television. Because of the weather, the Squadron had a lot of down time which was effectively used for troop training. In confirmation of this training a few competitions were held.

The first was a crew level crash harbour exercise which commenced with the crew in its sleeping bags. Once the signal was given, the crew crashed harbour and was put through its paces. The CO was present and even consented to act as a judge in a secondary competition which, unfortunately, ended in a draw. The winners of the competition, 3 Troop, greatly enjoyed their reward: a night in Nürnberg.

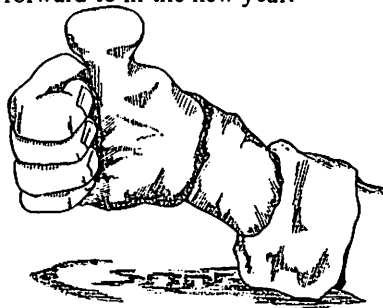
The second competition ran each troop through a series of stands designed to confirm crew skills. Everyone had an interesting time, especially those who crossed the rope bridge partially submerged. The competition was stiff as were the troops when the 6 km were done. Once again 3 Troop emerged victorious.

The Squadron provided a troop to the enemy force for the battle group exercises in Hohenfels. Both 2 and 4 Troops were involved. Using the MILES equipment on their tanks they managed to stop each attack and at the same time gain valuable experience with respect to tactical movement. During the Brigade Ex, the Squadron supported the infantry in their defensive position. This was made interesting by the presence of 293 Panzer Battalion, our affiliated German unit, who acted as the enemy.

Once the tank train arrived back in Lahr we went into the maintenance and gunnery mode. With the days so occupied the time passed quickly and Leliefontein was soon upon us. The parade went well as did the mess dinners. The Squadron did very well in the sports day thanks to Lt Milner and his C Squadron «judges». The day after the Leliefontein mixed dance the Squadron left for Munich to visit the M.A.N. Diesel and Kraus Maffei plants. The Sr NCOs, warrant officers and officers remained for the weekend to attend a series of professional lectures on military engineer capabilities as well as to visit Dachau.

The Squadron was tasked with running the Crew Commanders' Course and supporting the Basic Leopard Gunnery Course. As a consequence the entire Squadron was deployed to Bergen-Hohne. During the foggy mornings a large amount of vehicle maintenance was completed. Numerous visits were made to the cultural centres in Hamburg and its surrounding areas. Upon return from gun camp the Squadron threw itself into preparing for ATI. The Maintenance Troop was very eager to help and enabled the Squadron to get ready in time.

The Squadron has had a very full year and can look forward to the same in 1986. With Winter Reforger in January, gun camp in March, scuba diving in Spain during April and Ex Snake Bite in May, the Squadron has much to look forward to in the new year.





Gees . . . in the old days corporals were shot for less.



SHQ — a typical working day.



1 Troop during the troop competition.



Who says only SSMs can walk on water?



3 Troop prepares for a night recce patrol.



Rambo section in action.

THE BLUES AND ROYALS — REGIMENTAL NOTES

The year began in an unnerving fashion with the Regiment literally freezing in its tracks on Troop Training. One Squadron actually recorded -29°C and there were cases of diesel and oil becoming useless through cold. There was very much a First World War air to the whole period, with snow on the ground and bonfires blazing as people tried to keep warm.

In April the Regiment bade a sad farewell to the outgoing Commanding Officer, Lt Col Jeremy Smith-Bingham, who was succeeded by the present Commanding Officer, Lt Col Hywel Davies.

Towards the end of April the Regiment ran an exercise known as Scarlet Pimpernel which was designed to test various Recce Troops in their roles and proved to be a very useful examination of their abilities generally. For the whole period the Regiment lived under canvas — yet another interesting retrospective to the First World War.

In May the Regiment could be found at Hohne for Commission Firing which proved to be very exciting because most of us had never fired the APFSDS round before. During the previous year's Annual Firing the Regiment had a drinks party to which the Royal Canadian Dragoons officers were invited. Little did anyone anticipate how quickly such a kind return invitation would reach the Regiment the moment we returned to Hohne. No sooner had the Regiment driven from Hohne to Soltau than we were all hopping on the bus back to Hohne again. The author, needless to say, drank orange juice all night in order to record events, but sadly most details have failed to pass the censor.

June was a very sporting month for the Regiment with a sports day, a swimming day, an officers' and SNCOs' cricket match and the most gruelling and arduous of them all — the Commanding Officer's Vehicle Inspection.

In early July we were all at Hohne again less B and C Squadrons which were in Canada for the BATUS training. A and D Squadrons therefore had the undivided attention of the commanding officer and were in direct competition for the Tucker Trophy.

August saw the Regiment into the normal training routine, which consists of the more basic requirements of first aid, NBC, gunnery and drill. The final part of the Regiment's year was mainly concerned with Exercise Quarter Final, an FTX which pitted our Brigade, 20 Brigade, against 11 and 33 Brigades. It was basically a free-play exercise involving movement between Paderborn and Hameln, with more than enough action to employ all parts of a Battle Group and thoroughly exercise them.



Chieftain on exercise — Quarter Final.

**FROM OUR AFFILIATED GERMAN
BUNDESWEHR BATTALION – PANZER BATTALION 293**

Our close association with 293 Panzer Battalion has continued over the past year. This has taken the form of joint exercises (though on opposite sides), visits and attendance at each other's social functions. We highly value our friendship with 293 and will work to make it grow in the future.



The Supreme Commander Allied Forces Europe, General Rogers, is briefed by LCol Graham during Ex Solo Sabre (15-20 Aug 85). Oberstleutnant Von Heimendahl (CO 293) and BGen Dangerfield look on.



The visit of the RCD officers to 293 Pz Bn in Stettan A.K.M. on 12 March 85.

DAUPHIN CAVALERIE EN 1985

Pour le 12e Régiment de Cuirassiers, l'année 1985 a été une année particulièrement riche en activités de toute nature. L'instruction, domaine prioritaire, a été poursuivie sur un rythme élevé tant à Mullheim, qu'au cours de séjours en camp à Münsingen, Stetten (RFA), Bitche ou Mourmelon (France).

Le tir canon demeure bien sûr le souci constant de tous dans un régiment de chars équipé de 70 AMX 30. Plusieurs campagnes de tir effectuées à Canjuers dans le sud de la France ont permis d'améliorer la capacité opérationnelle du corps grâce notamment à la mise en service récente de simulateurs de tir très sophistiqués.

La coopération avec les alliés demeure aussi l'un des axes d'effort de «Dauphin – Cavalerie». C'est ainsi qu'à plusieurs occasions nous avons rencontré le 293 Panzerbataillon de Stetten à K M.

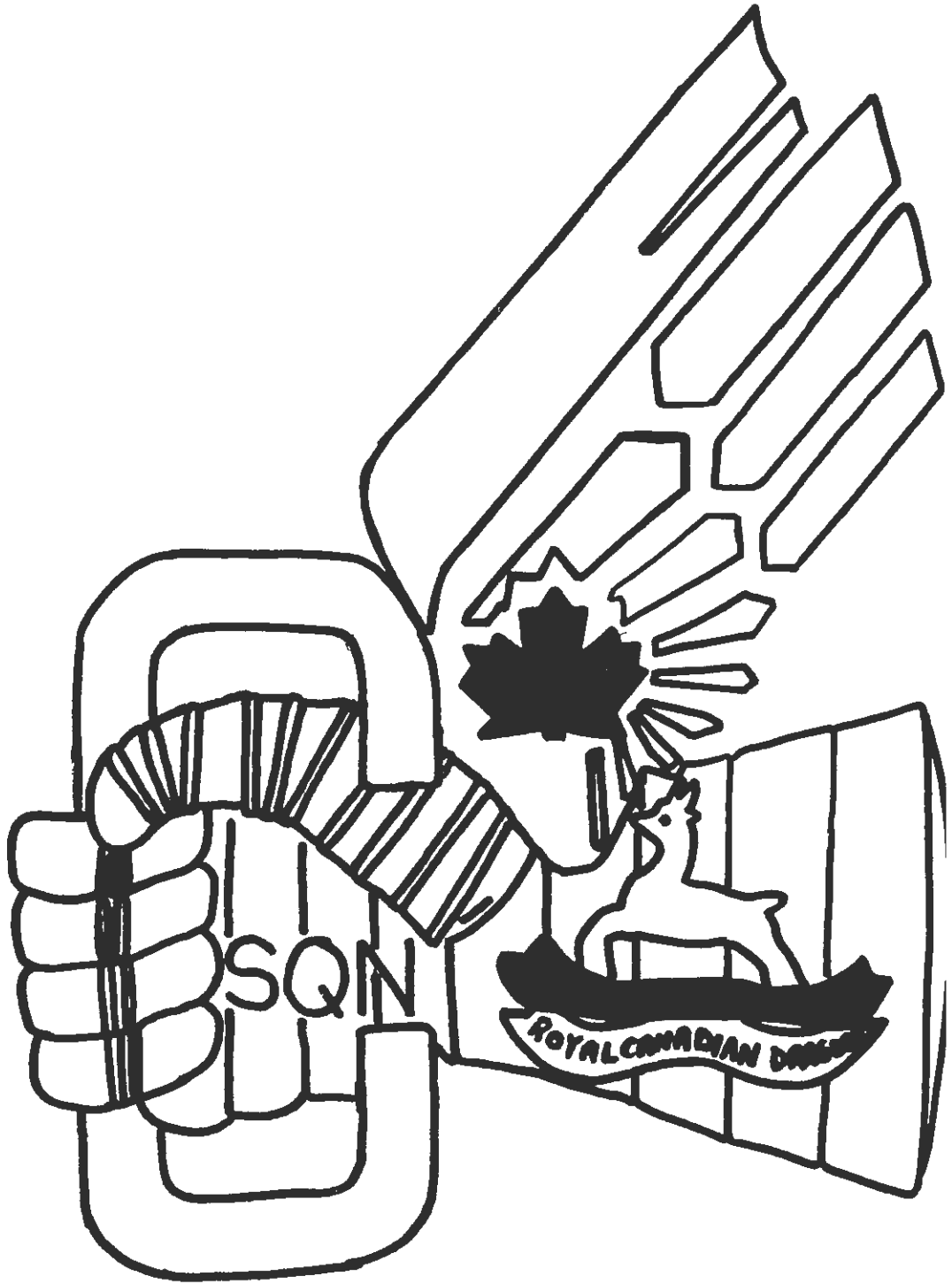
Plusieurs activités communes comme le nouveau challenge «Cavalpanzer» ont témoigné de la bonne santé de notre jumelage.

Nous avons aussi eu l'honneur de recevoir une délégation du «Staff College» de Camberley, le 6 mai; puis à l'occasion d'un échange d'officiers le Lt Miller du 4 Royal Tank Regiment (BAOR), du 10 au 26 juin.

De plus le 30 octobre, une délégation du 12e RBC de Valcartier (Canada) en séjour au 8e Régiment de Hussards (français) nous a fait l'amitié de visiter le régiment.

Les occasions de contact ne manquent donc pas et cela s'avère toujours très intéressant comme peut en témoigner la délégation qui a accompagné le col Baton à Lahr le 31 octobre lors de la commémoration de la bataille de Leliefontein avec The Royal Canadian Dragoons.

Puisse l'année 1986 nous permettre d'entretenir et de développer ces liens d'amitié, notamment sur le plan opérationnel, afin que nous continuions ensemble à participer au maintien de la paix en Europe.



C SQUADRON (GAGETOWN)

1985 was a very busy year for the members of «C Force». In addition to the Squadron's normal taskings, it was highlighted by our participation in Ex Antelope RV 85. This was the first time in a hundred years that a subunit from the RCD had deployed out west.

The year started off with the exacting routine of ATI. While the Squadron passed with flying colours a Change of Command Parade was held in which Capt M.A. Johnston handed over the Squadron to Maj G.G. Hug.

February found the Squadron concentrating on gunnery. After dry refresher training half-squadrons spent a week on the ranges refining their skills. In the end, 3 Troop led by Lt M.A. Nixon and WO S.C.A. Mann, took the Squadron gunnery competitions. Of course, it didn't hurt that 33A happened to be the SGWO in charge of tabulating the scores. Fresh off the Gun Camp 1 Troop and 2 Troop were given the honour of providing tanks for the Armd TQ 6A Course. Tpr C.D. Lawrence found it an unique experience as he became the first Squadron driver qualified in Canadian Amphibious Assault Operations on C/S 32. Despite the many taskings the Squadron still found time to clash with 22 Fd Squadron in our annual sports meet. With the «C Force» cheer ringing in their ears, our teams put in a determined effort but 22 Fd Sqn narrowly edged us out in a hard-fought competition.



38. with 33 and 34, lines up for refueling in WTP.

When 4 Troop returned from supporting Ex Chain Mail, it marked the start of our biggest tasking within CTC; the Squadron Commander's Course/Combat Team Commander's Course. For virtually the entire month of April, aspiring Squadron Commanders deploy our Leos in all phases of war. The course ends with both Schools combining to put in one final attack. This year the Squadron remained out in the area to conduct a Live Fire Ex as a work-up for RV 85. Tired, but happy that once again we were on our own, the Squadron spent three days of dry training before we crossed the LOD ready for action.

The month of May proved to be relatively quiet for the Squadron. 2 Troop picked up a new crew commander, Cpl R.J. Morvelle of the Royal Australian Armd Corps, on the AUSCAN Bond program. Meanwhile, the remainder of the Squadron spent time preparing the tanks for Ex Antelope and their train trip out west. Arriving by *Herc* on 1 June «C Force» quickly discovered what it must have been like in North Africa during World War Two. For the next month we all ate dust, dust and more dust! For three days the Squadron conducted Troop level training that gave everyone a chance to acquaint themselves with the area. While this was happening Sgt F.A. Ackhorn was grabbing every available body he could find to put the finishing touches to our new «home on the range». Finally, after going through a dry run with 2 RCR, the Squadron was given a chance to show how it is done. The wet run was quite the event for most soldiers of «C Force». Not only were we given live ammunition, but also we were able to see the effects of various weapons systems from .50 cal HMGs to 500-lb bombs delivered by CF-18s. Morale was at a high when the Squadron pulled into the leaguer at the end of the trace. Many targets were destroyed and the drivers were given an opportunity to use their skills to the fullest.

Ex Antelope continued for three more weeks. During this time, every Cougar Squadron used the C Squadron tanks for two days at a time. Most of the incoming crews were happy to be on a real tank, and whatever they lacked in experience they made up in enthusiasm. The routine of the Squadron became that of a support unit and thanks to the huge efforts of the ET and his crew, our tanks kept on rolling . . . well, sort of. Finally, on 24 June the Squadron boarded two *Hercs* and returned to a wet and rainy Gagetown. It was nice to see hills and trees for a change.

July found the Squadron supporting CTC and the Schools once again. 1 Troop supported the Infantry Ph II while 4 Troop supported Armoured Ph III. For the rest of the Squadron, garrison routine was far from dull. Maintenance accounted for most of the time as the tanks had suffered from the constant use out west and the train ride back. By the time block leave commenced in late July, the Squadron was ready for its fall training in August.

Back from leave in August, the Squadron had a new look. The APS definitely placed its emphasis on the «A». SSM Lynk had departed for language training and was replaced by SSM W. Childs. The BC, Capt Gerrow, handed his duties to Capt M.P. Cessford, while Capt M.A. Johnston went to RSS Charlottetown to make room for Capt B.D. Hale (and the Houston Rockets think that they have the «Twin Towers»!)

The troopers took a week to conduct troop training with their new personnel. Everyone will probably agree that it was both satisfactory and rewarding for all concerned. Many notable achievements were made such as MCpl D.R. Sanderson's qualifying for his Advanced D&M Course out in the field and Cpl J.S. Cameron and his commandos taking out 3 Troop with SMGs. However, the highlight of troop training was the Battle of Monument Woods between 2 and 3 Troops. 3 Troop might have won that battle but in the end it was 2 Troop that won the war! A troop test was organized by SHQ to judge how effective the training was. It consisted of AFV recognition, Soviet formations, range estimation, a trace and general crew skills.

Fall training ended with the Squadron coming together. All phases of war were covered and many valuable lessons were learned. Most of the collective training was done with half squadrons going up against each other. Who can forget 2 Troop's last stand on the 220 feature; 1 Troop and the battle of Headline Ridge; or 4 Troop's counter-attack at Butterfly Woods. It was a tired but happy C Squadron that returned to the K-Lines in September, thirsting for beer and full of war stories.

The remainder of the year went fairly quietly. When 1 Troop returned from supporting Ex Mobile Warrior in mid-September, it was time for Small Arms Refresher and Leopard PCF Training. During Small Arms Refresher, the demolition ranges proved to be very popular with the troopers. It is amazing what images can be moulded out of plastic explosives by a soldier. The FMC PT Test also managed to find its way into the week. The MAs, MCpl J.F. Thomson and Cpl L.R. Moss, were kept busy examining toes and puncturing blisters. With both PCF courses in full swing, personnel with the Weapons Effects Simulation Trial, drivers with TQ 6A, and personnel on the CLC Courses, November was quiet to say the least. We still managed to get most of the Squadron out for the Leliefontein weekend. The Sports Day was a close struggle but in the end MCpl C.E. Cox accepted the «trophy» on behalf of the Cpls/MCpls Team. The next day, 2 November, all RCD at Gagetown gathered for a Memorial Service and then were reviewed by BGen (ret'd) E.A.C. Amy, DSO, OBE, MC, CD. 22 November saw the arrival of BGen Kells' visit to C Squadron as Comd CTC. It was a sharp turnout by the troops in the newly renovated hangar. After talking to the troops, BGen Kells dined with the officers and Sr NCOs of the unit to round off a long week.

This year went well for the Squadron on the sports field. Our teams were competitive and always put forth a strong effort. However, two teams, the Tug-O-War and the Broomball Team, distinguished themselves. In March, the broomball team won the «B» division championship by not allowing a goal in their last three games. In May, our Tug-O-War team pulled everyone to take the Comd's Cup with just a week of practice.

As one can see in looking back at 1985, C Squadron was very busy. Heavily tasked as it was the unit's personnel rose to the different challenges and performed admirably.



Personnel busily load M548 for resupply.



Another nice sunny maintenance day in WTP.



Post RV 85 and Sqn Fall Training — C Sqn tanks await parts with fleet grounded.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' REST AREA

1985 was a year of unexpected change. In January we welcomed our new Regimental Sergeant Major, CWO G.E. Martin. This event was made necessary by the old RSM, CWO R. Marriot taking his commission and being promoted out of the Mess.

Also this year the Mess dues structure was altered once or twice to suit changing financial needs and abilities. A new bar was constructed and it made a vast improvement in the appearance of the Rest Area.

In July, MWO Bob Fougère assumed the position of PMC. He held this position until the arrival of MWO Dave Mason from Petawawa, who then took over the job.

July saw the Regiment welcome the permanent manning of «C» Squadron and the arrival to the Regiment of Recce Squadron. Both situations were gladly welcomed as we can now say we are in fact organized as a proper Armour Regiment on a permanent basis. The additional membership made a big difference in our social calendar.

Most of the functions, in fact all of the functions, were successful in that all who attended had a great time. Unfortunately, not all functions were well attended. The 50s dance put on by the ladies appears to have been the most successful in terms of attendance and enjoyment. Our sincere thanks to all the ladies who worked on this dance.

The Regimental Birthday Party which was attended by the Regimental officers was also very successful.

New Year's Eve at the Rest Area had a very good attendance and went over well. As this was a «self-help» party, credit must go to those who attended and organized it and had an obviously great time.

We would be remiss if we didn't pay our compliments to MWO George Cady and our cooking staff. They have produced some excellent spreads (some at very short notice) and we have yet to hear a complaint about quantity or quality. A good show.

1986 will see us come up to strength with the second round of establishment increases. There will be a full slate of entertainment offered and we're sure it will be as successful as 1985.

Thanks at this time are owed to those committee members who worked so hard to provide the membership with such excellent and varied entertainment and service.

For those posted back to the land of round door knobs, farewell, Godspeed, and best wishes to you and your families wherever you may be posted to. Remember you are always welcome back.

Also, lest we forget, thank you to those members of 444 Tactical Helicopter Squadron who also remembered where the «Black Hatters» live and who supported our Rest Area.

Reconnaissance



Squadron

RECCE SQUADRON

Although 1985 promised to be a year of change for Recce Squadron, it nevertheless opened up with the inevitable and age-old ATI: that period of Armoured Corps life where endless hours of maintenance and cleaning are almost always disrupted by the untimely, yet just as inevitable, Snowball. Despite this, ATI and the Commander's Inspection carried on with Recce Squadron leading the way, setting their usual high standard for all other squadrons to follow.

With the vehicles in top shape and ready to roll driver courses geared up under the direction of able-bodied Lt Datchko and Sgt Saunders. No undertaking was deemed too slimy by course officer Datchko for his students on the Tracked Recce Vehicle Driver's Course. In fact, it was even rumoured that the end-course critique stated «no question was too repetitive for Lt Datchko to answer, no class too long, no point too small, no detail to be missed, and no C/S 41!»

The month of March brought Recce Squadron to Heuberg for the Small Arms Camp. That same month also brought snow, snow and more snow. As such, with a range or two snowed out and all gunnery drills practised to perfection, Recce NCOs took the opportunity to teach the Subbies «Choose (chase?) the Ace». Rising to the occasion, the Subbies met the challenge, and, in the end, prevailed to such an extent that the NCOs must surely have felt that they were only «banging their heads against a brick wall!»

Things were different for Recce Squadron during the Regimental Gun Camp held in May. So much so that Recce Squadron became C Squadron. Lynxes were traded in for tanks, and quick refresher courses in Leopard gunnery and D & M were undertaken. But . . . C Squadron was still Recce Squadron, or so we were told. Maybe we weren't. Confusing times indeed! Nevertheless, both Recce and C Squadron were present at Ex Snake Bite. (Ex Snake Bite is an anti-armour exercise undertaken by 444 Tactical Helicopter Squadron in support of US Army anti-tank helicopters. Recce Squadron supports as an enemy force.)

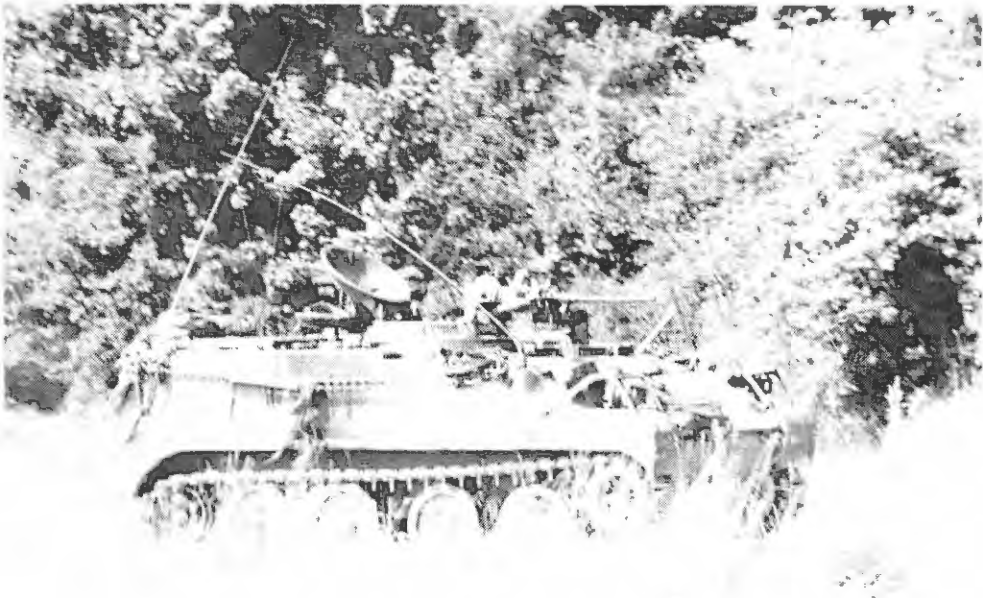
Once again, Canada competed in the esteemed Boeselager Cup Competition. (Boeselager is a reconnaissance competition established in memory of Oberst Georg Freiherr Von Boeselager who died while commanding the 3rd Cavalry Brigade on the Russian Front.) Recce Troop Leader Lt Ostler led a select crew on a valiant attempt for glory at Boeselager 85.

The summer months saw the rebadging of eighty-seven 8th Canadian Hussars from Petawawa to our Recce Squadron. Although Recce Squadron was then 87 per cent ex-Hussar, it wasn't long before even the most die-hard Hussar was assimilated into the Dragoon family. There was little opportunity to do otherwise as the Squadron had only two hectic weeks to prepare itself for Fallex.

Fallex saw the Squadron deploy to the training resort of Hirschau complete with ski-hill, pool, showers, Gasthof and disco. It was during this period that Recce spent several back-breaking (?) days in a Soviet defensive position for Ex Rebel Saddle (much to the consternation and eventual demise of many a combat team commander). Not long after, the Brigade FTX took place with German Leopards, Gepards and Marders advancing on us at best speed. All in all, a very successful exercise for Recce Squadron.

But there is no rest for the weary. Return to garrison meant many long hours spent on the parade square practising for Leliefontein (you never could tell where those .50 cal barrels were going to show up), and preparations for the ATIs . . . but not before CLC and PFC courses were to strip the Squadron of valuable time and manpower. And oh those Snowballs . . .

Recce Squadron – Keeping the Spirit alive in '86.





RCD OFFICERS' MESS

The RCD Officers' Mess began the 1985 calendar of activities with events associated with the Brigade Commander's Inspection. The last week of January witnessed a daily gathering of regimental officers for an early coffee break in preparation for parade and inspection rehearsals. Top on the agenda of conversation was the requirement for winter scales of combat clothing for units in Europe.

The first major event of the year was the Mess Dinner in late February to bid a long and healthy retirement to MGen C.G. Kitchen, the Senior Serving Dragoon. A very successful evening it was, as MGen Kitchen provided a fascinating and entertaining account of his career as a soldier, statesman and technical officer (harumph).

March was celebrated in fine Irish tradition, with a St. Patrick's Day Car Rally, sponsored by the officers of B Squadron. Lessons learned: don't team up with your wife and «held-up power line» is not in the Troop Leaders' Manual. Next was the co-sponsored A/Recce Squadron «Come as you Were» Party. After spending weeks being captured on film in the most compromising orders of dress, all arrived as «they were» and participated in a wide variety of games and activities. It's amazing what people wear «after hours».

Then it was off to Bergen where a combined dinner was held with the officers of our Allied Regiment, The Blues and Royals. But it was left to the CO to provide the social event of the year — the marriage of his daughter Michelle to Lt James (alias Otis; occupation: Man) Ostler. The reception was held in the Black Forest Officers' Mess.

The summer period, of course, saw the traditional departures from the Regiment to ERE tours and the arrival or the return to the Regiment of others. Those departing included the PMC, Maj Ban Price, and the VPMC, Capt Glen Leduc. Those arriving included the officers of the «new» Recce Squadron, thereby giving a boost to the membership not only in numbers but also in spirit.

Maj Mike Appleton was appointed PMC and Capt Jeff Hall was appointed VPMC. Lt Craig Oldham kept everyone in line as he carried on as Mess Secretary. The first order of business was the traditional Meet-and-Greet BBQ in August, followed by the Romp near Hohenfels. The 1985 Leliefontein celebrations included, of course, the annual mixed formal dinner, this year held on 31 October. This again proved to be very popular and several danced well into November.

The year was rounded off with some very worthwhile events with the WO/Sgt Mess. In late November, the officers demonstrated their prowess by once again retaining the Officer/Senior NCO Games Night trophy. Finally, the year would not be complete without a birthday party and the Regimental 102nd birthday was celebrated with a combined mixed Officer/Senior NCO dinner and dance.

All in all, 1985 was a memorable year in the Mess. Let it be recorded in the annals of history that this was the year which started the tradition of Happy Hour phone calls from Brigade in search of Orderly Officers in the RCD.

RCD SPORTS

1985 proved to be a very interesting year for sporting events in the RCD. Although the Regiment didn't win any championship, we did manage to place strongly in a few of the CFE sports leagues.

The RCD Springboks hockey team had a good season finishing in fourth place. However, they were beaten in the finals by the strong 1 R22eR Citadelles. In 1985-86 they finished off the season again in fourth place meeting the 2 PPCLI Rebels in the first round of the playoffs. WO Rousseau still thinks they'll come out on top!

This year the RCD put out two no-hit hockey teams one of which consisted of only officers, the other consisting of the men (RCD A Team). The RCD A Team made it into the A division while the RCD B Team squeaked into the B division. As it stands, the A Team has a chance of topping the league but who knows what will happen to the B Team.

Turning to broomball, the team under WO Reinson made it to the semi-finals where they were eliminated from further contention by the Gunners. Both games were exciting being 1-0 and 2-1. WO Braye took over the 1985-86 team which entered into a newly organized CFE league. Starting off the season with a 4-0 record, the team appeared to be well on its way to a championship. However with courses and injuries it dropped to a 6-9-2 record. Next year will be better.

Out of the rinks and into the gymnasium. This year's Springbok volleyball and basketball teams again displayed strong court knowledge and excellent playing ability. The Springbok basketball team under Maj Appleton ended up making it to the finals where they were eliminated by the Baden teachers. Lt Cushman's volleyball team had a good season finishing off in third place. In the playoffs the RCD were defeated by the 1 R22eR Citadelles in a hard-fought game.

Going outdoors to the grassy soccer fields, the RCD soccer team started off the season slow due to rotation. However, towards the end of the season, they won their last five games to make the playoffs. They manhandled 4 Svc Bn in the semi-finals but were beaten by the 2 PPCLI team in the finals.

The Brigade Sports Day! Well, the best way to look at it is that we did better this year than last. The Regimental team achieved its best results from the military tabloid team who placed third behind the two infantry battalions. The track and field team discovered that it was not their year to win the Brigade Olympics.

REGIMENTAL SPORTS

In November the annual Leliefontein fun sports day took place. The Colonel of the Regiment, BGen Bell, officially declared the games open with the lighting of the infamous RCD eternal flame. It was a hard-fought battle by all squadrons in events such as tent-pegging, pig-out rally, tug of war, chain-of-command race, flag football, etc. Eventually the points were tallied and C Squadron was the winner. (Was it because they organized, ran and judged all events?)

Finally, amid all the confusion of ATI, GOCs, exercises, courses, etc., the Regiment still managed to carry on with inter-squadron sports leagues. Every Wednesday afternoon the squadrons competed in events such as hockey, broomball and volleyball, depending on the time of year. The events are geared towards encouraging maximum participation and to let the players have as much fun as possible while getting into shape. No matter what teams won, everyone who participated was a winner.



CO kicks off the 1985 Sports Year at the Regimental Track and Field Day.



Now that's speed!



Typical Springboks' Sports Day.



The Unknown RSM.



«The» no-hit team.



Our top team (Brigade Sports Day) – 85 Military Tabloid Team.



The Forced March Team . . . last but not least.

THE RCD YPRES/NIJMEGEN MARCH TEAM

«Needed: Volunteers to meet the challenge of walking 45 km a day for four days carrying 10-kg packs with minimum complaining allowed.» The call went out, the team was formed and the training commenced in March with daily walks during PT periods around the airfield – but wait – that's only 10 km; don't worry, sports afternoons will be longer. So went the training to get us into shape for our first test of endurance: «Ypres».

We arrived in Ypres for three days to march a total of 100 km and a chance to see and hear Pope John Paul. Our administrative staff consisted of Sgt Fischer, Cpl O'Keefe, Trooper Reed and Trooper Deevey who provided the team with gourmet meals and a chance to visit the Medical Officer for an outbreak of food poisoning. Still we pushed on – but cautiously.

Gun camp immediately followed and our training schedule ground to a halt until we returned to Lahr. Training then commenced three days per week, 40 km each day but unfortunately many team members took leave right up to the day we left for Nijmegen.

«Panic!» Only 30 minutes until the bus departs for Nijmegen and already we're hurting with two men limping from injuries suffered on leave. But still we go. We're here Nijmegen, and in four days we can relax, have a brew and tell our stories: «Let's do it».

It's day number one and we're off along with 28 000 other marchers. The scenery looks great and spirits are high, no problems. Day two is much like day one but day three takes its toll. Muscles take forever to loosen up, blisters cover everyone's feet and boots continually remind us of the pain with each step we take. The pace is slow for all the marchers and our medic, Cpl Lacelle, has his hands full and at one point even he marches to inspire us to finish. Stress fractures develop in the legs of two members and the strong taunt them on to finish. The day finally ends. We've all made it this day. Feet are bleeding and aching, ice packs are placed on badly swollen joints and everyone is quiet, thinking about the next day.

Day four and we're off but we're moving so slow. After the first 10 km we've loosened up but still the pace is slow as we march closer and closer to the finish. There's no doubt in everyone's mind that we are all going to finish – to come this far and quit is now not even considered. Left, Right, Left – there it is – the finish line and we've made it! The medals are issued; the injuries are cared for; and the feeling of achievement is expressed by all in various ways for not everyone will do this and not everyone who does makes it.

Although demanding, we had a fantastic time. We must have for a number of this year's team hope to walk it again on the Nijmegen 86 team. «Good Luck».



Last day at Nijmegen.



MCpl Jonsson: «Stop whining!»



Cpl Train: «!?:!?:!?:!»



69ste Vierdaagse, Nijmegen, H

RCD LADIES' CLUB

The RCD Ladies' Club provides a vehicle whereby all ladies of the Regiment can meet one another socially. The Club assists the wives and children of all personnel on strength of the Regiment whenever and wherever help is required and can be given.

The Club had an active year. We slid into 1985 with a skating party and potluck supper. February brought in a new executive:

President	Brenda Moore
Vice President	Gail Lambert
Secretary	Anne Smith
Treasurer	Karyn Betts
Entertainment Conveners	Amy Poitras
	Cecelia Ballard
	Brenda Martin
	Mary Hopkins
Ways & Means Conveners	Andrea Prendergast
	Brenda Keachie
Hospital Convener	

Following the election, Odette Leduc displayed her talent in the art of cake decorating.

At our April meeting, Tannis Wightman spoke to the membership about the background, purpose and importance of the Women's Centre.

The latest fashions from England came to Lahr in May. Much fun was had by models and «behind the sceners» alike. Response from the community was so overwhelming that we hosted a Fall Fashion Flare in October.

In June we bade farewell to those repatriating to Canada. Each departing member received a memento from the Club to accompany her fond memories of Europe. As the summer is a time of goodbyes and hellos, our Welcoming Committee shifted into high gear. Eager volunteers attempted to visit each newcomer and answer any questions about living in Germany. The Annual Meet & Greet held at the end of August entertained a full house. September's Family Picnic was perfect – lots of fun, food and people. A heartfelt thanks to the Rear Party and all those who volunteered for making the day a success!

Delores Kimak and club member Amy showed us how to «Come Alive With Colours» at the September meeting. Herr Walter entertained us with flower arranging demonstrations in October and November. Our December meeting, a dinner at a local Gasthaus, gave us an opportunity to wish our friends a Merry Christmas. And what holiday season would be complete without a children's Christmas party with Santa? Lots of fun was had by kids of all ages.

It is only through hard work and dedication of our volunteers in fund-raising projects that our many activities are possible. Our annual ventures included a muffin stand at the Merchants' Fairs held in March and October, and the confectionary stand at the RCD Volksmarsch in November.

The Club wishes to thank the Regiment for its continued support. We wish to extend a most sincere welcome to ladies interested in joining us at our monthly meetings, normally held the second Tuesday of each month. Come and join the fun!



HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Introduction

While a Sabre Squadron is a fairly straight-forward sort of organization, all members with the same goal in life, Headquarters Squadron is quite a different sort of entity. We include the Regimental Headquarters (albeit somewhat nominally); Regimental Maintenance (you break it we fix it); the Quartermaster's Stores (no you can't have it); Regimental Transport (keep on truckin'); Headquarters Maintenance section (to fix our own stuff); and finally a Squadron Headquarters to link it all together. What follows, therefore, are separate accounts of the various sections, the sum of these sections being Headquarters Squadron.



Even RHQ gets dirty sometimes!

Regimental Maintenance

As the Regimental maintainers double clutch into preparations for the Annual Technical and the Brigade Commander's Inspections, another fun-filled and exciting year approaches its finish with a minimum amount of hard feelings, and no major accidents to the Squadron's talented and dedicated technical personnel or their well-cared-for equipment.

Exercise Crested Cap as always (every two years) makes for a most interesting (like worms) interlude between the Munsingen and Fallex periods. It always reminds a person not to take for granted the facilities we have in the North Marg!

The major training exercises of the year were attended, supported and enjoyed by all. The only exceptions were those spoiled ex-Sabre Squadron personnel who were used to being chauffeured via the tank train to and from exercise areas since they now have to rough it in the cab of their own «army car».

Production as normal during Fallex had the Weapons Section shower production company, better known as «Bilge & Sons Inc», flooded with rush orders from the Squadron's personnel. Boy! Did Cpl Pocknell and Beatty clean up! And to be sure, we were the freshest Squadron in the Regiment!

A new experience to some but old hat to others, the Hohenfels concentration certainly kept us hopping. SPSS received a new boss (MCpl Bryan) to head the ship and keep the spare parts flowing while MCpl Duberger (FCS) kept the MO busy putting out the fire caused by a leaking portable space heater. It definitely warmed up MCpl Duberger and you can take that at face value!



Now where did I put the instruction manual?

Everyone attempted to keep up with his personal sports program, but some were a little out of the ordinary. WO Thomson received lots of practice in bare-handed knife catching (mostly in the centre of his back), while the Maint O was busy perfecting his favorite sabre technique «the underhanded slash» and instructed the new ETSM, CWO Nichol, in the proper and effective technique of throwing the poison-tipped regimental lance (Cpl Poulin kept getting in the way though).

Modifications to standard radio procedure by WO Marr and his introduction of Cat, Dog and Frank to the phonetic alphabet was well received during the wee hours of the morning during the Regimental CPX (had to keep 8B awake somehow!)



EME enters the computer age!

Unlike last year, the weather for this year's exercise period was very good (almost enjoyable), even though wet weather still occurred. The troops had anticipated foul weather and depleted the stores of the exercise areas of their sheep boots, and the SQ and SSM helped empty the American clothing stores of their annual stock of raingear.

Leliefontein was another great success due to the efforts of the Regimental maintainers who were invited to spectate and serve refreshments during this year's post-parade activities. That's what we get for being proficient on the tarmac with only a moment's notice. (Someone must have seen us on the LEME birthday parade.)

As all things must come to an end, so does another fun-filled but busy year for Headquarters Squadron Maintenance Troop.

Arte et Marie



The Regimental «fixers» at work.

Quartermaster

QM Personnel spent a busy year participating in Gun Camp in Bergen-Hohne and those wonderful, lazy-hazy days in Munsingen and Hohenfels. Of course, the Snowballs are a continuing thrill!

If only people would stay away and let us restock the shelves! Everytime you turn around, someone (always the SQ) is demanding an immediate issue of a light bulb or some green barbage bags! Wouldn't it be nice to leave all the stock unpacked – it makes the shelves look so neat and tidy!



No, you can't have any spare parts.

Actually, supporting the unit keeps you on your toes. The constant challenge is invigorating. Do you want your «Thrill of a Lifetime»? Come to the QM.



Omar the tent-maker.

Headquarters Maintenance

The HQ Maintenance Section has proven once again in 1985 that it can keep the RCD operational by its constant efforts and expertise, coupled with its perseverance and great sense of humor. Yes, they completed all assigned tasks with real professionalism, both as technicians and as soldiers. This magnificent team is led by none other than WO «Ron» Gabriel, his wip . . . Sgt «Mack» McIntyre and at this time MCpls «Bart» Bennett, «Bob» Carter, «Ben» Cyr, «Lyn» Dahr, and «Percy» Ross. Of course the backbone of our section is made up of the corporals: «Bugs» Blouin, «John» Fougère, «Ray» Jean, «Claude» Lévesque, «Don» Mackie, «Bitch» Paul, «Mike» Potts, «C.B.» Reber and one «Tire Man» Tpr «Brian» Brennan.



The «Tire Man».

During the Munsingen Exercise, the German Army challenged the unit to a small arms firing competition. Sgt McIntyre was representing the Maintenance Section. He made it to the final shoot-off, was one of the three finalists, finishing third over all. First place was clearly the German finalist, second place was an RCD officer, but being a vehicle technician and non-infantry or tanker he was awarded the VTRUBPLIKDO-FREUNDSSCHAFTSSCHIESSEN plate. (Figure that one out!) The German Army invited all competitors for dinner, then off to the friendly dart game, football accuracy kicking and the closing of the games by a tug-of-war match and plenty of German beer.



Shooting for the prize.

During Fallex HQ Maintenance held their second annual Hohenfels moustache-growing contest. This year's winner was Cpl Lévesque. The booby prize winner second year in a row was Cpl Fougere who insists on growing the sparsest 'stache in the Regiment. (Anyone got some extra fertilizer!)

MCpl Percy Ross, who finally found a bed for Munsingen, got himself promptly promoted right out of it again. Better luck next time!



A bit bigger than your average Volkswagen.

Regimental Transport

Many soldiers in the Regiment think that Transport is a swan and all we do is have coffee breaks. Well, they're right. Even MWO Martin comes around once in a while to find us sitting about and drinking coffee!

But that is not reality. Reality is working daily for the Regiment. We bring fuel (POL), ammo, fresh rations and remove garbage from the areas. (Sound exciting?) Often there are not enough hours in a day or days in a week, but somehow we still manage to make it. This is mainly due to the teams of the four master corporals, more universally known as Shorter-Than-Most, the Podfather, Jack Daniels and his sidekick Brownie.



The reality of transport.

Bobby's moving fleet moved tons of cargo over thousands of kilometres. He provided a life-saving service to the squadrons by having SPUD (84C) deliver blocks of ice so the boys could have cold beer during Munsingen and Fallex. While on enemy force for RHQ, cargo soldiers of fortune ran into a rabid fox instead of the objective and the fox made them his objective!

Pods were very busy refuelling the squadrons and their 548s. At one time runs of over 100 km were made to Recce Squadron. These chaps were known as the «Pod Squad» and their boss was «The Podfather». «B» echelon POL was provided by a small orange pony challed Pokey «whom ole Joe loves dearly».



A glamorous job.

Jack Daniels and his motly crew on the 548s provided the necessary POL stores to run the squadrons. Most noteworthy of the 548s is of course the fact that they are «always lost and never found». But when on Snowballs, these boys are out there humping POL and ammo.

So here's to the guys who move fuel, ammo, food and garbage. You probably know them better as:

TRANSPORT – Minister of Transport (84); Mad Scotman (21C 84); Ole Black Joe (84A); Speed (284A).

BOBBY'S MOVING FLEET – Shorter-Than-Most (84B), Spud (84C), Bomber (84E), Smitty (84F), Riv (84G), RUFUS the garbage man (84?), Hopsing (84K), Clark-ee (84J), Rats-Man (81K).

POD SQUAD – Podfather (84D), The Flying Frenchmen (84P, 84R, 84Q), Nick 2 (84S, 84T), Pokey & Deke (84L).

548 COMMANDOS – Brownie (87A), Yappy (87B), Crash (87C), Smurf (87D), Bim (87F), M-1 (87G), Jack Daniels (87H), Heuy & Lewy (87I & 87J), Joli (87K), Punker (87L), Tampon (87M).

No it's not as glamorous as riding around the battlefield in an Iron Horse but it goes without saying that it is vital work that keeps the squadrons rolling, and keep'em rolling we do!

THE RCD CADET CORPS — RCACC 2596

The year 1985 proved to be a very eventful one for the RCD Cadet Corps.

During the period from January to March the Corps undertook extensive training in small arms on the .22 cal and 7.62 mm rifles. Several weekends were spent on the Cambrai small arms range and the indoor range at the Kaserne.

The first aid team won the CFE Cadet First Aid Competition which entitled them to travel to CFB Borden for the Mary Otter (Ontario Region) First Aid Competition. The team finished eighth out of 34 teams. The team consisted of cadets Lt Hepburn, MWO Bradley, WO Bateman, Sgt Purdy and Sgt Johnson.

The Corps also took part in a fieldcraft training exercise in the North Marg. With the mercury dipping low, the cadets learned to set up hoochies and prepare Meals, Individual, Ready-to-Eat.

During the weekend of 3-5 May the Corps deployed to Baden-Soellingen for a fieldcraft exercise. Cadets set up a camp with hoochies, trenches and all the conveniences required. Patrols and map-using exercises were conducted, all under cadet command. The cam stick, webbing and rifles were set aside for a few hours on Saturday and a steak barbecue was held. Several cadets preferred rations to steak however — what soldiers!

Upon return from the field the Corps prepared for the cadet annual inspection. Col Spencer, COS HQ CFE, was the reviewing officer for the parade. The march past and advance in review order went off without a hitch. With parents looking on, the cadets also conducted demonstrations of first aid, radio equipment, weapons and armoured fighting vehicle recognition. The evening ended with a very entertaining unarmed combat demonstration.

During the summer the cadets dispersed to summer jobs and a variety of cadet camps and courses in Canada. As well three cadets took part in the Regimental training exercise held in Munsingen where they were employed in C Squadron.

With the return of the Regiment from Fallex the Corps began a new training year. Just as it got underway, however, an unforeseen development took place. The Regiment was ordered to make a CIL officer the Commanding Officer of the Corps and to admit girls to its ranks. The CO of the Regiment and the Corps were not consulted and due to the significant impact on the Regiment's influence and control of the Corps, the CO of the RCD withdrew sponsorship and ended the Regimental affiliation. As an interim measure, the Regiment continues to provide instructors. However, the changes brought to the Corps resulted in a large reduction in attendance.

The Corps is now known as 2596 RC (Army) CC and a new sponsor will be announced shortly.



BOESELAGER 85

The Boeselager Recce competition is an annual event open to armoured recce units from the Bundeswehr and from NATO forces. Recce squadron has continued its participation in the competition since it first began back in the mid-seventies.

But why is it called Boeselager? Funny you should ask; I just happen to have an answer all ready. Oberst Georg Freiherr (Baron) von Boeselager was a distinguished cavalry officer who began his career in 1934. A skilled soldier and talented horseman he was already highly regarded when war broke out in 1939. Highly decorated during the French Campaign he was eventually sent east where he continued his exemplary performance. Recalled to Germany to discuss the future of cavalry operations, he became involved with members of the German resistance group who were planning ways to rid their country of Hitler. Tasked with the organization of a new thousand-strong cavalry unit, Boeselager ensured that it was manned exclusively by anti-Nazis, his intention being to create a unit of unquestioned loyalty. Eventually, this unit grew to over three thousand. As the war raged on the unit was constantly employed on extremely difficult missions resulting in considerable wear and tear on the men, horses and material. Wounded in action, he was evacuated to Germany in January 1944. Again approached by the resistance movement, he repeated his willingness to participate in any future action. Disappointed by the inaction of the resistance, he returned to the Eastern Front. When the attempt was finally made on Hitler's life, Boeselager's unit was standing by for transport to Berlin. Although the coup failed, Boeselager himself was not implicated in the attempt. However, just one month later, his brigade was ordered to make a suicidal attack in Poland; an attack in which he was killed. Posthumously promoted to full colonel and awarded Swords to his Knights Cross of the Iron, he remains a true German patriot and hero and an example of conduct of which Germany is still justifiably proud. (Remember, you asked.)

And now you may wonder how our own team fared in 1985? Well, that's a matter of perspective. One must remember that the other allied nations in this competition have much larger bases of people from which to draw than we do. As well, these other nations tend to allow their teams to train almost exclusively for Boeselager when selected to compete. Our 1985 team, led by Lt James Ostler, finished ninth in the Guest Class. Although actual performance during the competition is measurable, what non-competitors do not see is the tremendous amount of selfless hard work, dedication and high standard of training that our team members displayed. The competition was close and stiff and there were no runaway prizes in 1985. Our 1985 Boeselager team deserves recognition for their effort and quality performance.

RCD — 4 CER SPRINGBOKS 1985-86

The «Boks» headed into the 1985-86 season quite optimistically with a few new additions and a new coach. The season was characterized by a heavy schedule primarily finishing by Christmas with the four playoff berths being decided by mid-November.

Exhibition games against teams from Metz and Epinal, France, prior to the commencement of the regular season gave indication of an interesting season yet to come. The «Boks» went undefeated against both teams.

Through sweat and hard work we beat every team in the league at least once. In the end the «Boks» came up with a solid fourth place finish. The upset of the season came with the «Boks» defeating the first place team, the 2 PPCLI Rebels 10-4. In the playoffs, however, the «Boks» were not quite so victorious. They went down in two straight games to the vengeful Rebels.

The story of the season had to be the combination of Lt Rostek, Cpl Puddifant and Cpl Madigan. The trio placed first, second and sixth in the individual scoring race. They put together 239 points to become the highest scoring line in the CFEHL 1985-86. An interesting note is that the trio never practised together during the regular season.

A special thanks has to go to WO «Gee-Whiz» Rousseau, the coach. Surely much of the Springboks' success can be attributed to his unyielding efforts both on and off the ice.

The season came to an end with the «Boks» participating in a few tournaments in France and Switzerland. No doubt the Springboks proved they were a force not to be taken lightly. With the return of Rostek, Puddifant and Madigan we look forward to another prosperous and more exciting season in 1986-87.



THE TEAM

LEFT TO RIGHT (front) Cpl Poulin, Cpl Puddifant, MWO Walton, MCpl Maillet, WO Rousseau, Lt Rostek, Cpl Tremblay; and (back) Cpl LaPorte, Cpl Boisvert, Lt Barr, Cpl Madigan, Cpl Paul, Tom Walton, Cpl Aumais, Mike Purdy, Cpl Bernard, Cpl Lemarre, Cpl Cadeau, Tpr Richards.

OFFICER NO-HIT «B» TEAM

For the first time the RCDs submitted two teams to the CFE no-hit hockey league. However, there is a catch, the RCD B team was comprised totally of officers. Thus we present to you, the Stag-hounds.

The team took their name from that Second World War fighting machine, the Staghound. The name somewhat exemplifies their prowess on the ice; that is, slow and old. Joking aside, the team put forth a substantial effort and we hope to see them become a permanent member of the league.

Individual as well as team efforts were high and no one seemed to get more excited about his accomplishments than a certain third-string goalie. From being suspended for barbarian-like tactics to newcomers scoring more points in one game than half the original team did all season, the Stag-hounds entertained their fans — on more than one occasion, fan — throughout the year to a peculiar brand of hockey. All in all, team spirit was high and a certain degree of self fulfilment was gained from being a member of the club. We look to the future and a successful and entertaining season from the Stag-hounds next year. Best of luck Stag-hounds. Don't give up your daytime jobs!

RCD NO-HIT HOCKEY B TEAM



Maj Forsyth makes an outstanding attempt to keep the puck out of the net.



In most games the team used unorthodox methods to keep the puck out of the net — even an extra man.



Lt Datchko gets assistance from Lt Milner to get more height and weight on his shot.



Capt MacDonald led the team in scoring with an occasional garbage goal.



The RCD «B» Team (front row, left to right) Capt Kennelly, Capt Leclair, Lt Rostek, Maj Forsyth, Lt Datchko, Lt Wells and Capt Fletcher; (back row) Capt Egner, Lt Milner, Capt MacDonald, Capt Puddister, Capt Richards, Maj Hillier, Capt Brough, Maj Mohr.

RCD AUGMENTATION 85 — A PERSPECTIVE

Picture yourself a staff officer at FMC HQ. Imagine that you've been there for five years. Consider that you have in your wallet a wrinkled, but well-preserved copy of a posting instruction which intends to send you to 8 CH Petawawa as OC A Sqn in APS 85. You are reading a Cougar Gunnery pamphlet when the phone rings. It's the CO 8 CH.

«Hi! How would you like to go to Germany?»

«What?»

«Germany . . . it's close to France.»

«Authenticate HJ.»

«I'm serious. If I get tasked to send a Squadron, I've decided that you will be the Squadron Commander.»

«I still owe you money; that's why you're calling.»

«No, really!»

«When will you know for sure?»

«Should be next week.»

«Which hat badge? Is unit rotation going to happen?»

«It's yet to be decided.»

«Okay, I'm your man.»

«Good. And come to think of it . . . you still owe me five dollars.»

«I pay Québec taxes. I'll have to get a loan.»

You sink back into your chair. «Now what?» you ask yourself. You think: «Bratwurst.» «German beer.» «Do I take my car?» «Can FMC HQ function without me?» «Which squadron will I get?» «Do I have to build a crate for my sword?» In the middle of your excited reverie, the SSO Armour drops in.

«How's the wife, sir?»

«Fine.»

«Is regimental rotation going to happen?»

«It's yet to be decided.»

«Can you give me a guess?»

«It looks 50/50 right now.»

«Okay. Have you got a sword crate?»

After putting everything on BF for after the arrival of your replacement, you decide to call your wife.

«Hi.»

«Hi.»

«How would you like to go to Germany?»

«What! . . . You've been sitting too close to your radiator again, haven't you?»

«No! . . . It's true! We should know next week.»

«Sounds super! What are you going to do about your sword?»

You arrive in Petawawa the next week and, after paying the CO his first five dollars plus enough «interest» to finance a small coup d'état in South America, he tells you that indeed you ARE going to take Recce Squadron to Germany, but that the issue of the hat badge is yet to be resolved. Remembering that «GOD IS RECCE», you float out of his office and are immediately besieged by 10 young lieutenants, all of whom are doing their best to speak German. You tell them that the CO must decide who will go. In an instant, you are all by yourself; but you do hear a lot of German-like sounds in the area of the CO's office.

Back at FMC HQ, your boss, an Armoured lieutenant-colonel, calls you in and congratulates you on your new posting:

«I'm glad that you were selected.»

«Thanks, sir.»

«By the way, the CO RCD would like you to report in early to get things rolling.»

«Oh? How early?»

«Third week in June.»

«Is that okay with you?»

«Sure! I'll let you go.»

«Does that mean that you don't want me around any more?»

«Quit whining!»

«Yes sir!»

The weeks fly by, and you've done it! You've packed your boxes for Germany. And the sword wasn't a problem either. It only took eight hours and 12 beers to build a crate. You've also managed to arrange for a Squadron advance party to arrive in Germany in mid-July to give you a hand. You hope that the short period of time that they have had between RV 85 and deployment to Germany doesn't cause them too many heartaches.

And, at last, your arrival in Lahr! You've been here before and enjoyed your short stay immensely. You make a wish that all will go well with getting the Squadron settled in and ready for Fallex. There are a lot of «first tour» personnel in the Squadron. As well, you've heard that housing is tight and could create problems. (You find out first-hand that this is true in your first three weeks here.)

Your first meeting with the CO helps to get things launched in the right direction. Two weeks later he calls you in and welcomes you to the RCD family. The decision has been made! Eighty-one Hussars will become Dragoons. It takes you a whole weekend and half a bottle of brandy to re-badge for the first time in your career. But, by Monday morning you are already getting used to the Springbok on your beret and RCD flashes on your shoulders. You realize that there are more important issues to be considered. A whole squadron must be organized, cleared in, equipped, kitted and oriented towards Fallex. (Also, you have to find a place to live.)

Thankfully, the advance party arrives on time and you tell them all to get a new set of «Is» . . . 4 CMBGIs, CFEIs, RTIs, CEOIs, SOIs, et al. And when these become a «I-sore», you give them RAPs, DAGs, RSDs, BSDs, and a Squadron Training Instruction. With more backs to shoulder the load, everyone concentrates on one issue — being ready!

In the event, all went well. Many worries failed to materialize and the problems which did surface were handled as they arose. Fallex proved to be a good baptism of fire for the squadron. The feeling was that, if such a demanding enterprise could be handled effectively on such a short fuse, then the remainder of the training year figured to be a good one. And, to date, it has been.

This article has been written from the perspective of hindsight — six month's worth of reflection. The successful permanent augmentation of the RCD with Recce Squadron personnel is a debt owed to many. The hard work and dedication of the soldiers within the squadron speaks for itself. The assistance and co-operation of many other members of the Regiment guaranteed a smooth, orderly transition. To all who were involved, be proud of your accomplishment. «Ya done good!»

W.L. Gorman
Major
OC Recce Squadron

TEN YEARS AGO IN THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS

The accompanying picture was taken at the beginning of a Combat Leaders Course run by the Regiment in 1975. Some of these people have moved onward in their careers, some have stood still, and at least one is no longer living.

After showing this picture to some serving members of the Regiment, we were struck by the memories that were held by them; some good, some funny, some sad. One thought was current with most of them — «Was I ever that young?» or «That's a long time ago!»

How many of these people do you remember? Where are they now? Do you still communicate with any of these people or is it only when you are passing through Gagetown that you see or hear of old friends and old soldiers?

We've attempted to identify as many of the people in the picture as possible. We'll leave it up to you to fill in the blanks. We've used their ranks as we know them today; we may not be 100 per cent correct, but again, you fill in the blanks.



FRONT ROW (left to right): WO Lefort (R22eR), MWO Mason, WO Bruce (4 CER), WO Skippen (ret), CWO Sutherland, Capt Borylo, Maj Fournier, BGen Dangerfield, Capt Levesque, Maj Watson, MWO Rutledge, MWO Torrey (4 CER),(3 CDO),(HQ & Sigs).

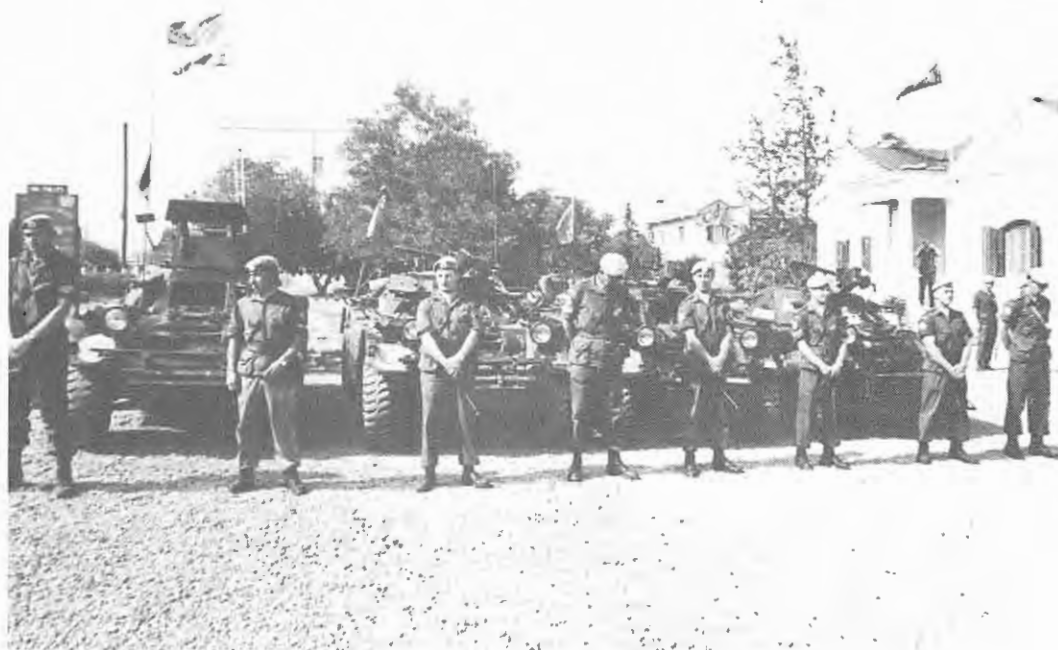
SECOND ROW (left to right): Cpl Hands, Cpl Gibson, Sgt Hogan, WO Roberts,, MCpl Minor,,, Cpl Nash (deceased),,, Sgt Hamer,, WO Reinson, MCpl Knight.

THIRD ROW (left to right): Sgt Fyvie,, ? Sullivan,, Sgt Beebe, WO Murdoch,,,, WO Jacobs,,, Sgt Valley, MCpl Stanley (ret),

FOURTH ROW (left to right: Sgt Dube (sigs),, ? Schnell,, MCpl Wardrobe, Cpl Damphouse, MCpl Woodward (CER), MCpl St-Pierre,, WO D.,, Sgt McAvoy.

BACK ROW (left to right):,,,,, WO Paquin,,,, Sgt McPherson, Cpl Ward,, Sgt Delschaeider,,

THE REGIMENT IN CYPRUS IN 1965





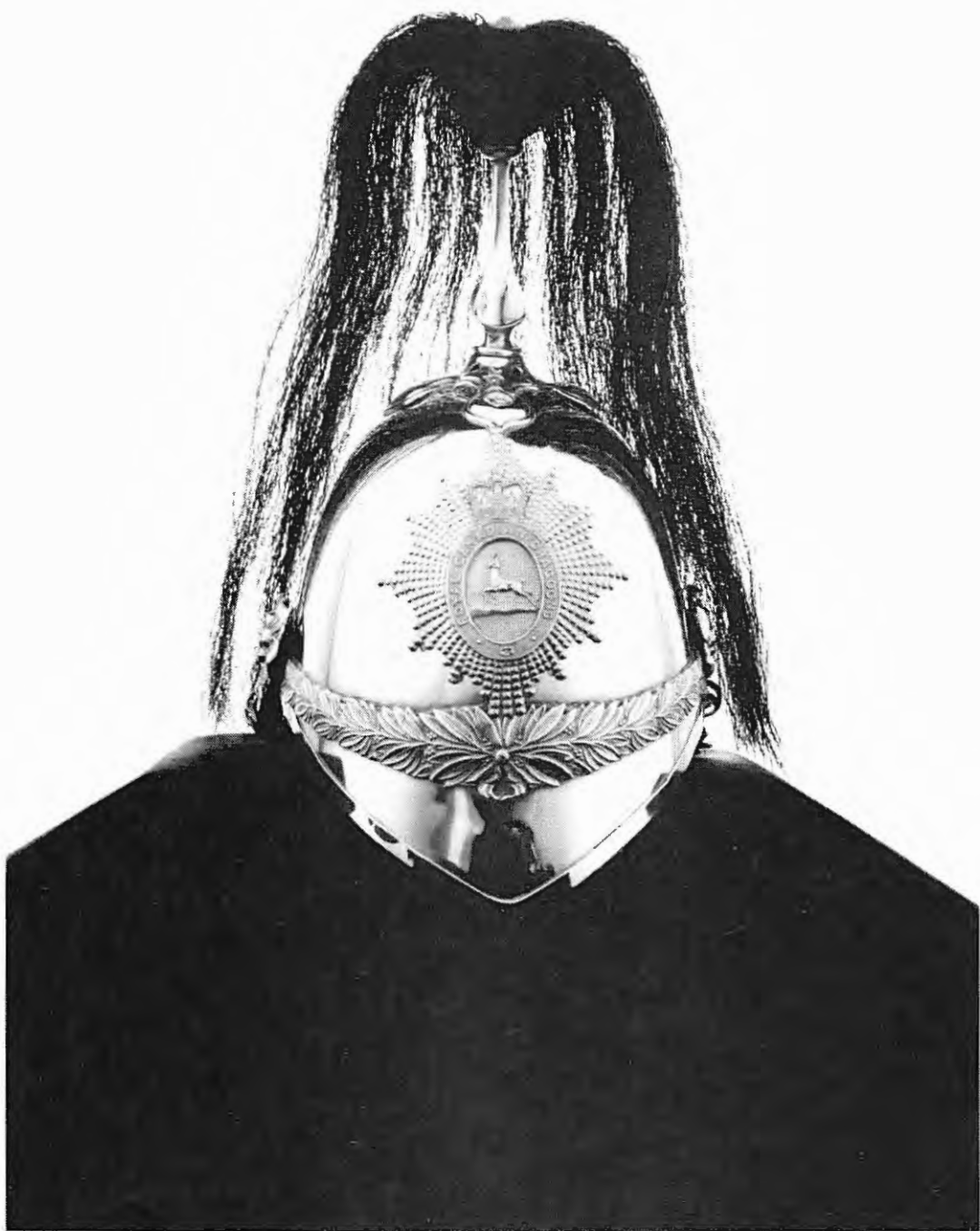


**RCD TANK GUNNER
THRESHOLD KNOWLEDGE TEST**

Note: This «Threshold Knowledge Test» was administered to Comd 4 CMBG before allowing him to mount the tank at the Regimental Gun Camp in Nato Ranges Bergen-Hohne.

1. Spell T-A-N-K.
2. Which end of the barrel do you load the rounds into?
 - (a) front-end
 - (b) rear-end
 - (c) doesn't matter
 - (d) the Leopard C-1 has an auto-loader
3. Who is the CO of the RCD?
 - (a) Darth Vader
 - (b) the RGO
 - (c) the RGWO
 - (d) some guy named Graham
4. What's the muzzle velocity of a blank?
5. What colour should the tower be in order for you to fire?
 - (a) green (for «go»)
 - (b) off-blue
 - (c) it just doesn't matter
 - (d) red
 - (e) mauve
6. What's the call sign number of «92»?
7. Explain the IFCS in five words or less OR spell your name in block capitals.
8.
 - a. How many rounds fit into the *39-round bin*?
 - b. How many 7.62 mm coax rounds fit into the *1 000-round bin*? (For 5 points extra) How much beer fits into it?
 - c. What is the calibre of the coax MG?
9.
 - a. Are you a PAL (Preferred Alternate Lifestylist)?
 - b. If so, report immediately to the RSM (for some human rights/lefts/crosses and jabs).
10. (This is tough):
 - a. Who's taller?
 - i. the CO
 - ii. the Bde Comd
 - iii. Wilt Chamberlain
 - b. (For 5 points extra) Who's the next tallest?

P.S. The Commander passed!



**REGIMENTAL LIST
31 DECEMBER 1985
RHQ**

LCol D.J. Graham
Maj H.W. Mohr
Capt H.R. Egner
Capt W.C. Leclair
Capt J.J.F. Lemieux
Capt S.A. Martin
Capt R.C. Taylor
Lt J.M. Barr
CWO G.E. Martin
WO W.G. Cleveland
WO K.R. Jacobs
Sgt W.K. Fischer
Sgt K.H.H. Hammel
Sgt J.F. Hunt
Sgt D.B.L. Slaght
MCpl D.C. Gallagher
MCpl J.G. Gooden
MCpl J.G.M. Jolin

MCpl S.M. Lehman
MCpl R.J. Morris
MCpl R.W. Ritchie
Cpl B.A. Cameron
Cpl J.J.L.D. Chercuitte
Cpl D.J. Crumback
Cpl R.G. Dallaire
Cpl J.R. Emery
Cpl C.J. Ewart
Cpl J.P.G. Gagnon
Cpl N.J.J. Gendron
Cpl R.A. Hodder
Cpl D.B. Lane
Cpl D.B. Mackie
Cpl D.R.M. Martineau
Cpl M.H. Poole
Cpl J.M. Reber
Cpl J.C. Wilkie
Tpr R.A. Fancy

Tpr J.R. Guillemette
Tpr G.S. Hodder
Tpr P.J. Neal
Tpr M.N. Prinzing
Tpr D.A. Wilcox

60

Lt T.M. Datchko
WO A.R. Mantel
Sgt R.A. Hopkins
MCpl T.W. Ramm
MCpl A.J. Slack
Cpl J.M.J. Hebert
Cpl K.E. Pedersen
Tpr G.B. Caouette
Tpr M. Nicolaidis
Tpr K.J. Park
Tpr R.W. Robbins
Tpr D.S. Woodbury

A SQUADRON
SQUADRON HEADQUARTERS

Maj L.K. Barsauskas
Capt W.N. Brough
Sgt D.R. Proctor
MCpl C.R. Duke
MCpl J.P. Vandenberg
Cpl J.R.J. Belanger
Cpl M.G. Brabant
Cpl J.A. Champagne
Cpl J.C. Duchesne
Cpl D.W. Durning
Cpl G.A. Wilmlink
Tpr C.G. Saltel

1 TROOP

Lt S.C. Oldham
Sgt G.R. Locke
Sgt D.J. Smith
MCpl T.G. McAuley
MCpl A.P. Thompson
Cpl T.J. Babson
Cpl J.A.P. Charboneau
Cpl R.W. Hartley
Cpl M.J. Kelly
Cpl K.R. Latam
Cpl M.O. Lucy
Cpl R.A. Somerville
Tpr J.S. Camilleri
Tpr R.J. Gauvin
Tpr T.G. Pepperdine
Tpr J.R. Thibault

2 TROOP

Lt M. Rostek
WO J.E.R. Munger
Sgt A.J. Green
Sgt S.C. MacMillan
MCpl K.E. Stovold
Cpl P.M. Abbott
Cpl J.E. Cima
Cpl D.R. Kell
Cpl D.K. Meek
Cpl J.L. Roode
Tpr J.R.M. Barrette
Tpr M.P. Eby
Tpr M.J. Gilliard
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Sgt R.J. Orr
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MCpl D. Ward
Cpl G.R. Beaton
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Cpl G. Malcolm
Cpl J.I. McAvoy
Cpl J.R. Morrison
Cpl D. Pohl
Tpr D.H. Bell
Tpr C.J. Clarke
Tpr T.A. Pebbles
Tpr A.W. Spittal
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Sgt H.H. Hauschilot
MCpl W. Visneskie
MCpl R.C. Watt
MCpl T.V. Webber
Cpl R.K. Brown
Cpl W. Remus
Cpl J. Train
Cpl W.E. Tummings
Cpl C.B. Ward
Tpr G.L. Duffney
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MCpl K.R. Jones
Cpl L.A. Adams
Cpl J.E.D. Chiasson
Cpl J.R. McLeod
Cpl J.A.M. Simard
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MCpl G.F. Eichler
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Sgt Howse
MCpl Nickerson
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Cpl Asselin
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Cpl Partridge
Cpl Syroid
Cpl Tutty
Cpl Weir
Tpr Bamford
Tpr Dykeman
Tpr Johnson
Tpr Smaldon

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Cpl Touzin
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Tpr Crabb
Tpr Glen
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Tpr R.L. Findlay
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Tpr S.B. George
Tpr J.A. Goguen
Tpr P.A. Harvey
Tpr M.J. Ryan

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Tpr E.M. Parlee
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MCpl M.R. Grover
MCpl A.J. Reid
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MCpl R.J. Swainsburg
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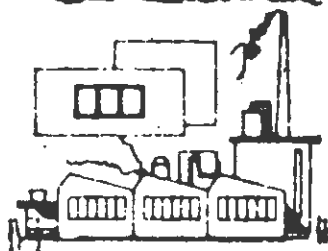
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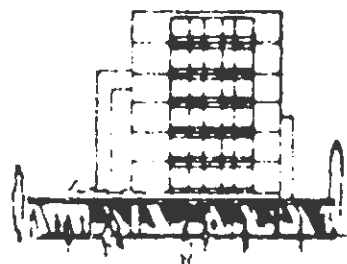
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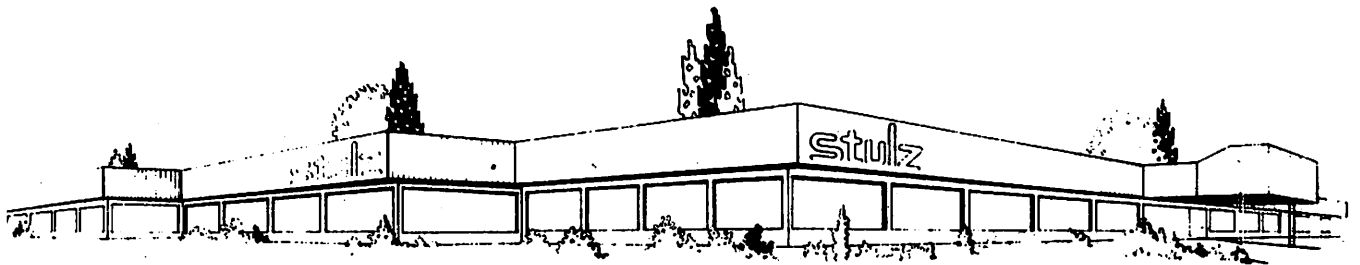
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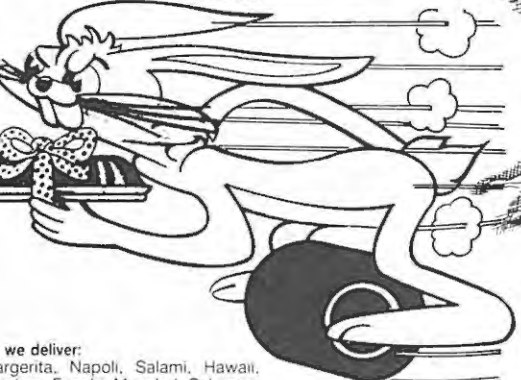
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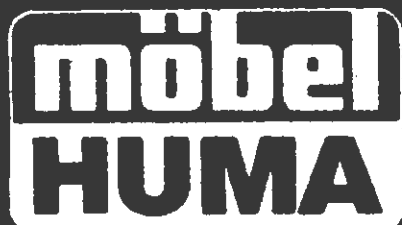
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